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PART XLIV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs of Turkey.

Part XLIV.

No. 1.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 666. Secret.)

My Lord, *Berlin, November* 26, 1879.

COUNT DE ST. VALLIER on returning from Varzin was laid up with a bad cold, so that he was, until lately, unable to talk over privately with me the impressions which he had derived from his visit to Prince Bismarck.

His Excellency now tells me that he was happy to find the Chancellor in better health than the press had led the public to believe; able to drive daily, and for hours together, in a carriage without springs, over the rough roads of Pomerania, to oversee the vast forests he is planting on his estates; in the full enjoyment of a healthy appetite, keen about public affairs, both home and foreign, and deeply interested in Lord Beaconsfield's novels, which he is reading over again.

Prince Bismarck informed M. de St. Vallier that while he read novels his mind enjoyed perfect rest, because it ceased to govern Germany for the time being, but that if he did not write novels, it was because the government of Germany required the whole of his undivided creative powers.

In regard to the questions of the day, Count de St. Vallier thought Prince Bismarck less inclined to recognize the independence of Roumania than he had been led to believe by M. de Radowitz in Berlin. The Prince admitted that the time was approaching for recognition, but said that a few weeks more of "strangulation" would do the Roumanians good before they were allowed to enjoy an independence which they had done nothing to deserve.

Respecting Greece, Prince Bismarck reiterated his assurances that he would give his cordial support to M. Waddington in bringing about the settlement of the frontier question in accordance with the views of the French Government.

M. de St. Vallier, who seemed much gratified by the Chancellor's promised support, told me that in all probability, when the Turco-Greek Frontier Commission had come to a deadlock, M. Waddington would propose the appointment of a European Technical Commission to draw up a Report upon the best strategical frontiers for both countries, which would, later on, facilitate the mediation of the Powers under Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty.

This mode of proceeding, his Excellency said, would also meet with Prince Bismarck's approval.

Concerning Egypt, the French Ambassador found his Highness but imperfectly informed of the somewhat complicated phases that question is undergoing, but eager to give his earnest attention to the explanations M. Waddington had instructed the Count to press upon the German Government. In conclusion, his Excellency declared categorically to Prince Bismarck that France, who had attended the Congress on condition that Egypt should not be dealt with, because her interests were so far greater than those of the other

Powers, England excepted, that neither France nor England could ever admit any other Power to an equal share of influence, must, on that ground, now firmly decline to admit the pretension of the Austrian Government to a share in the appointment of a third European controller in Egypt.

To M. de St. Vallier's great satisfaction, Prince Bismarck entirely concurred in all he had said, and promised that the Austrian Government should be privately advised to withdraw that pretension forthwith.

I have since heard, through M. de Radowitz, that Prince Bismarck has already fulfilled his promise, and has sent instructions in that sense to the German Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna.

Count de St. Vallier also obtained from the German Chancellor most satisfactory assurances in regard to the Austro-German defensive alliance similar to those offered to your Lordship by the Austrian and German Ambassadors in London.

His Excellency then inquired what the circumstances really were that had "frightened" his Highness in regard to the attitude assumed by Russia, and which had necessitated the conclusion of a defensive alliance with Austria.

In reply, Prince Bismarck detailed the threatening positions which had been gradually taken up by the Russian army on the German frontier since the Congress of Berlin, and which had become so alarming that he had felt compelled, in July last, to address a note to the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, demanding explanations as to their meaning and as to the intentions of the Russian Government.

"The Russian Government," his Highness said, "had the audacity to reply by an impudent denial of the facts."

Prince Bismarck then spoke of General Obrutscheff's secret mission to negotiate an offensive alliance with France, and intimated that he had reason to believe that similar overtures were made at the time to Italy. Other circumstances had also come to his knowledge which imposed the duty upon him to seek protection for Germany against Russian intrigues, and which finally led to the conclusion of a defensive alliance with Austria. He most earnestly hoped that it would have the effect of neutralizing the hostility of Russia, and of guaranteeing Austria against an attack which it was the manifest interest of Germany to prevent.

In conclusion, Prince Bismarck repeated that he looked upon the alliance between France and England as the basis and the alliance between Austria and Germany as the completion of the edifice on which the peace of Europe depends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 2.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 761.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November* 26, 1879.

BARON HAYMERLE considers that some steps must, before long, be taken with respect to the Bulgarian river monitors, which are kept in the Danube, in direct violation of the Treaty.

I said that when these vessels were made over by Russia to the Principality, and the Bulgarian flag was hoisted upon them with much pomp and ceremony, I had called the attention of Count Andrassy to the circumstance; but, as far as I was aware, no representation had been made to the Bulgarian Government from any quarter on the subject.

The Treaty so clearly prohibited the maintenance of any vessel of war on the Danube that I thought the Bulgarian Government would make no difficulty about at once sending them round to Varna, if called upon to remove them from the river.

Baron Haymerle exclaimed that he could not admit the right of Bulgaria to have these vessels at Varna or anywhere else, as the Principality was not entitled to have a war flag at all, and he believed that this would be found by a reference to the Treaty or the Protocols.

When I said that this was certainly not to be found in the Treaty, nor, as far as my recollection served, in the Protocols, his Excellency replied that if not in these, it had been undoubtedly so agreed in the "Commissions de Rédaction." Of what passed in these Commissions I have no means of knowing; but, from the official documents that have been made public, it does not appear to me to be clear that Bulgaria is debarred from

the right of possessing vessels of war, though Baron Haymerle considers this a necessary consequence of her position as a vassal State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 3.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 763.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November* 27, 1879.

THE Austrian Government do not appear to regard with entire indifference the efforts of Prince Alexander to organize a Bulgarian army, officered to a great extent by Russian officers.

Baron Haymerle says that the Prince is not at all Russian in his leanings, but that he has a strong personal devotion for the Emperor; and he admits that there may be truth in what his Highness alleges of the impossibility of creating an army except by means of Russian officers; but Baron Haymerle asks what is the necessity of an army to defend a country so well guaranteed against attack, and also whether, in order to gratify his wish to have one, the Prince is justified in representing his want of means of carrying out what he is bound by the Treaty to perform.

Little has been done towards the demolition of the fortresses, which ought, by this time, to have been entirely razed, and the Bulgarian Government also profess their inability to enter into the arrangements for the construction of the railways according to the provisions of the Treaty.

Baron Haymerle did not say that he wished any representation on the subject to be made to Prince Alexander by Her Majesty's Government; but it certainly would seem that before the resources of the Principality are spent in armaments it might be called upon to carry out the Treaty as regards the demolition of the fortresses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 4.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 1.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, November* 30, 1879.

IN reply to Porte's demand for admission of 18,000 Mussulmans, Bulgarian Government stated last week that, in consequence of Turkish Government having omitted to supply details asked for last August as to number and original residences of refugees, it was too late to make preparations for their reception. Much suffering and, perhaps, disorder would ensue. Copy of this reply was sent to your Lordship in my despatch No. 224. Turkish Prime Minister reiterated by telegram yesterday his demand in somewhat peremptory language.

Prince Alexander sent to me last night to express personally the painful impression produced by the continued mistrust on the part of the Porte in his good intentions towards his Mussulman subjects, and by the tone employed by Saïd Pasha.

No. 5.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—*Received December* 2.)

(No. 211.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the majority of Members in the Assembly belonging evidently to the party opposed to the Ministry at present in office, the Ministers have again tendered their resignation to His Highness the Prince, who has again declined to accept it, because not based on any formal division or vote of the Assembly, which is still occupied with merely preliminary proceedings regarding the order of the House.

His Highness is, however, resolved on a change of Ministry as soon as the desire for such shall be expressed by the Assembly in regular form.

It is understood that the bulk of the new Ministry will be made up from the so-called "Liberal," "National," or "Anti-Russian" side. A coalition by which two or, at least, one of the present functionaries would retain place in the new Cabinet is desired, but is, it would seem, hardly attainable. However, no effort will be neglected to select moderate and judicious men for the posts left vacant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 6.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 212. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that His Highness the Prince, having privately consulted me as to the way of meeting the political crisis caused by the relative dispositions of the Ministry and the National Assembly, it has been resolved:

That His Highness will not accept the resignation of the Cabinet till a vote of want of confidence shall have been passed by the Assembly; but that the dismissal of the Ministers shall follow immediately on such a vote.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the Opposition have on their side privately informed me that they have resolved to bring the vote in question forward on occasion of the Verification of Seats, which commences to-morrow, and, consequently, even before their answer to the Speech from the Throne.

To this measure the Prince, as agreed upon between His Highness and myself, will immediately respond by a communication to the Assembly made in the following manner:

The Ministers will, by the President or the Minister for Foreign Affairs as spokesman, inform the Assembly that His Highness has accepted their resignation, and that he requests the Assembly to assist him in the formation of a new Cabinet.

Hereon, a Committee to that effect will be nominated by the President of the Assembly, and a list will be drawn up leaving sufficient margin of choice to His Highness.

When the new Ministers have been approved, and have taken their seats, their first act will be to repress any attempt on the part of any Member of the Assembly to impeach, prosecute, or otherwise molest the members of the late Cabinet for any irregularity during their past tenure of office. After which the House will proceed to the Answer to the Speech from the Throne, and to further business.

Such is the programme drawn up by myself acting as mediator between His Highness and the Opposition; a programme which will, I have reason to hope, be faithfully adhered to, and which, while insuring the constitutional downfall of the present Ministry, will prevent their gaining any advantage from the reaction which might follow any extreme measure on the part of their opponents.

As I have already had the honour of informing your Lordship that the present Ministry is composed of the nominees of Russian influence, and is itself of a Russianizing tendency, I need add no further reasons for the line I have adopted to bring about their complete downfall, and to cause them to be replaced by what, as matters now are, may be almost called the English party.

In conclusion, I may add that the party which desires to model the country, within reasonable limits, on English institutions, and which looks steadily towards English support without, is strong in the present Assembly. Created at Tirnovo, it has been studiously, though cautiously, nurtured during the months which have followed, and having obtained its first victory by causing the rejection of the Russianized programme of a Constitution, it now looks forward to a second by bringing about the downfall of a Russianizing Ministry. But the character and the duration of its ascendancy will be determined not only by internal and national, but in great measure by external and extra-territorial circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 7.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 349. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November* 11, 1879.

THE Director of Finance has proposed that with reference to the communication made by Prince Tzeretelew, as reported in my despatch No. 322 of the 1st instant, the Governor-General should reply that the claim of 23,000,000 fr. for the military occupation of this province cannot be entertained until the Russian Government shall have presented a detailed account both of the cost of that occupation and of the revenue that was encashed by the Russian Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 8.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 353.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November* 14, 1879.

THE "Maritza" has published the following Ordinance, dated the 11th instant:—

"Considering that the object of the Gymnastic Societies existing in Eastern Roumelia, in virtue of Order of 10th January, 1879, was service in the militia and the reinforcement, in case of necessity, of the military forces of the province, and that that object, hitherto pursued, can be attained by a more practical measure, I decree—

"1. The existing Gymnastic Societies are dissolved, the persons participating in them shall be inscribed in the lists of the two bands of the militia and its reserve, in conformity with Articles 369 to 372, and 391 of the Organic Statute;

"2. In conformity with Article 411 of the Statute, the men of the reserve shall take part in exercises the details of which shall be determined by a special Ordinance, and they can moreover be called upon by the proper military authorities to reinforce, in case of necessity, the action of the gendarmerie and militia;

"3. The right of carrying arms shall be subject to legal limitation; the same shall require the permission of the proper authorities.

(Signed) "BOGORIDI."

(Sent to Therapia.)

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 9.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November* 15, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 343 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a Report addressed to the Governor-General by the Director of Finance on the subject of the Provincial Budget for the period between the $\frac{22\text{nd May}}{3\text{rd June}}$ last and the $\frac{24\text{th February}}{12\text{th March}}$, 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 9.

M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopolis, le 2 Novembre, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence le Projet de Budget pour l'Exercice du 22 Mai, 1879, au 29 Février, 1880 (v. s.), tel qu'il a été discuté et approuvé par le Conseil Privé. Ce Projet de Budget est accompagné des Projets de Loi suivants :—

1. Projet de Loi sur émission de bons du Trésor, jusqu'à concurrence de £ T. 60,000.

2. Projet de Loi sur émission de mandats du Trésor, jusqu'à concurrence de £ T. 40,000.

3. Projet de Loi autorisant le prélèvement de £ T. 20,000 sur le solde des sommes conditionnelles provenant de la vente et des revenus des biens des réfugiés Musulmans.

4. Projet de Loi sur l'impôt sur le revenu.

Le montant des revenus inscrit dans la première partie du Budget s'élève :—

	Prs.
(*a.*) Pour les revenus ordinaires	33,965,000
(*b.*) Pour les revenus extraordinaires	100,000
Total	34,065,000

Les différents articles qui composent ce revenu sont considérablement inférieurs aux montants qui figurent dans les derniers Budgets Ottomans de cette province, les revenus des contributions indirectes seulement, tabac et spiritueux, accusent une augmentation notable qui atteint presque 50 pour cent. Comparés avec le rendement de l'année passée, les revenus montrent une très-forte augmentation qui, pour quelques chapitres, atteint le double du rendement de l'année passée, malgré l'état peu satisfaisant de la récolte de cette année. Cette élasticité du revenu, due au travail des habitants, à la réparation d'une partie des pertes subies durant la guerre, et à la reprise des travaux de la paix, peut inspirer confiance dans l'avenir financier de cette province.

Les causes principales qui rendent le produit des revenus de l'année courante inférieur à celui avant la guerre sont les suivantes :

1. L'infériorité du produit de la dîme est due à l'énorme diminution du bétail. Une partie seulement des champs labourables a pu être ensemencée, et cette partie, mal travaillée, n'a pu donner à cause de la sécheresse qu'une récolte très-médiocre.

2. Le produit de la taxe sur les moutons et chèvres a également souffert par la diminution du nombre de ces animaux. Il y a pourtant contre l'année passée une augmentation d'environ 25 pour cent à constater.

3. Un certain nombre de revenus, perçus sous l'Administration Ottomane en faveur du Trésor, a été abandonné aux communes. Parmi ces revenus figurent le droit de Kantar, péage, intisap et autres.

4. Abolition du Bedel-i-Askerié.

5. Dégrèvement de la propriété foncière de différentes taxes en tout ou en partie (tapou, yuklama, cadastre).

6. Le verghi, représentant sous différentes formes, les contributions directes et personnelles, n'a pas été perçu. Les deux Projets de Loi créant l'impôt foncier sur les batisses ne servant pas à l'agriculture, et la taxe sur le revenu, sont appelés à remplacer le verghi.

Le premier de ces impôts doit dans l'avenir être étendu sur toutes les proprétés immeubles pour lesquelles il remplacera alors la dîme.

Les dépenses inscrites dans la seconde partie du Budget atteignent un montant très-élevé et trop considérable pour les revenus actuels et ordinaires de la province.

Le total des dépenses se décomposent comme suit :—

	Prs.
(*a.*) Dépenses ordinaires	43,929,803
(*b.*) Dépenses extraordinaires	6,906,752
(*c.*) Dépenses extraordinaires remboursables ou constituant un nouveau capital .	7,228,445
Total	57,065,000

Parmi les dépenses ordinaires se trouve comprise la totalité des dépenses pour la milice dans sa composition actuelle. Le surplus pour l'entretien et l'équipement des trois bataillons mobilisés appartient plutôt au second Chapitre : "Dépenses Extraordinaires."

Parmi les dépenses extraordinaires figure à côté du fond de réserve de £ T. 10,000, et du fond pour dépenses imprévues de £ T. 5,000, comme article principal une somme de

£ T. 40,000, destinée pour secours aux indigents de la Roumélie Orientale pendant l'hiver. La plus grande partie de cette somme sera nécessairement dépensée en faveur des fugitifs Musulmans qui viennent de rentrer dans leurs foyers presque entièrement dépourvus de tout.

Pour cette raison le Gouvernement a cru pouvoir prélever, pour faire face à ce besoin urgent, une somme de £ T. 20,000 sur les sommes conditionnelles, sommes qui proviennent de la vente et des revenus des biens des fugitifs Musulmans, dont le solde s'élève encore à environ £ T. 40,000. Comme une grande partie de cet argent provient de la vente de biens meubles, bétail, &c., dont les propriétaires réels ne pourront se faire dûment reconnaître, l'emploi paraît le plus légitime.

Les dépenses extraordinaires remboursables ou constituant un nouveau capital sont les suivantes :—

	Prs.
1. Achat de coffres-forts. (Chapitre 59).	30,000
2. Avances aux communes pour semences, achat de bétail, et reconstruction de maisons. (Chapitre 65)	6,260,000
3. Achat et établissement des télégraphes et postes. (Chapitre 79)	584,022
4. Construction de l'Hôtel de l'Assemblée Provinciale. (Chapitre 89)	114,423
5. Digues des salines d'Achiolo. (Chapitre 90)	300,000
Total	7,228,445

Il serait injuste d'imputer ces dépenses d'une nature toute spéciale au Budget ordinaire d'une seule année. Une partie de ces sommes rentrera intégralement dans le Trésor, une autre constitue un capital productif donnant des revenus. Il paraît donc indiqué que le Trésor, pour faire face à ces dépenses, ait recours à une opération financière, pour les répartir sur différentes années, ou faire rembourser ces dépenses par les recettes auxquelles elles donneront lieu. Une émission du bons de Trésor dont l'échéance coïnciderait avec les avances faites par le Gouvernement paraît la meilleure forme pour cette opération financière.

D'après ce qui a été dit plus haut les dépenses totales ordinaires et extraordinaires inscrites sur le projet de Budget s'élèvent à 57,065,000 piastres ; les revenus disponibles pour faire face à ces dépenses et inscrites dans la première partie du projet de Budget montent à 34,065,000 piastres. Il y a donc un déficit de 23,000,000 piastres à couvrir.

Si on pensait que les dépenses ne sont pas susceptibles de réduction, l'équilibre du Budget ne pourra être atteint que par une augmentation des recettes.

(*a.*) La première somme à laquelle le Gouvernement pourra avoir recours est l'ancien solde de caisse provenant des revenus de l'État qui nous a été laissé par l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne, et qui s'élève à 4,098,540 piastres. Mais comme l'Administration des Finances a besoin d'un certain fond de roulement qui exactement est formé par cet ancien solde de caisse, le Directeur des Finances devrait être autorisé à émettre des mandats de Trésor jusqu'à la concurrence de cet ancien solde de caisse.

(*b.*) Outre le solde précité de 4,098,540 piastres l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne a transmis à nouvelle l'Administration une somme de 4,400,968 piastres, provenant de la vente et des revenus des biens des fugitifs Musulmans. Les caisses ont commencé à rembourser aux ayants-droit le montant de leurs réclamations dûment justifiées ; mais il y a tout lieu de supposer qu'une grande partie de cette somme ne sera jamais réclamée parce qu'elle provient de la vente des biens meubles dont les propriétaires ne pourront pas être reconnus. Vu les besoins de secours qui existent tout spécialement pour la population Musulmane, le Gouvernements pourra disposer sur le solde de 4,400,968 piastres d'une somme de 2,000,000 piastres, sous la réserve expresse de restituer le montant aux "sommes conditionnelles" dans le cas où leur solde serait insuffisant, pour faire droit à toutes les réclamations justifiées.

(*c.*) Contre le montant des dépenses remboursables le Gouvernement émettra des bons du Trésor jusqu'à concurrence de £ T. 60,000.

(*d.*) Un impôt foncier sera établi sur toute batisse qui ne sert pas à l'agriculture ; cet impôt sera fixé à 4 pour cent de la valeur. Cet impôt serait perçu dans l'exercice courant pour douze mois, savoir : pour la période du 1er Mars, 1879, au 29 Février, 1880. Son rendement est évalué à 5,000,000 piastres.

(*e.*) Il est établi une taxe sur le revenu de toute nature provenant des biens immeubles, rentes, traitement ou autres de 3 pour cent du revenu annuel. Cette taxe sera perçue pour l'exercice courant pour six mois, savoir : pour la période du 1er Septembre, 1879, au 29 Février, 1880. Le produit annuel de cette taxe est évalué à 12,000 000 piastres, ou, pour six mois, à 6,000,000 piastres.

Avec les recettes énumérées ci-dessus dans les Chapitres sous (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*), le total des revenus de l'exercice courant se présente comme suit :—

		Pts.
1. Revenus ordinaires. (Chapitres 1 à 26 du Projet de Budget)		33,965,030
2. Revenus extraordinaires. (Chapitre 27 du Projet de Budget)		100,000
3. Revenus extraordinaires nouveaux—		
(*a.*) Mandats du Trésor, contre ancien solde de caisse		4,000,000
(*b.*) Prélèvement sur les sommes conditionnelles		2,000,000
(*c.*) Bons du Trésor contre les avances faites aux villageois		6,000,000
(*d.*) Impôt foncier sur batisses, pour douze mois		5,000,000
(*e.*) Taxe sur le revenu pour six mois		6,000,000
Total des recettes		57,065,000
(Contre piastres.)		
Total des dépenses		57,065,000

Les Directeur des Finances,
(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

No. 10.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 358. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 14, 1879.

WHEN I called upon General Strecker the day before yesterday, I asked him for information respecting the Ordinance that had been signed by the Governor-General during the previous night, on the subject of the dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies. The General displayed an amount of reticence that compelled me to express to him my astonishment and regret that he should have considered it unnecessary to consult me on a subject which necessarily interested my Government as one of the principal Powers by which the province had been created.

General Strecker replied that the measure had emanated from the Governor-General, and that he had himself only spoken to Prince Tzeretelew about it as the Gymnastic Societies had been instituted by the Russian Administration of the province.

To this I observed that the affairs of the province were, even according to his own showing, conducted in a manner that would imply the continued practical existence of that Administration, and I gave the General to understand that this was a state of affairs which Her Majesty's Government could not long tolerate.

I pointed out to him that if his object in taking part in the preparation of the Ordinances for the dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies was in reality in conformity with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, I should have been only too glad to afford him my assistance, but the secrecy with which the question had been discussed, and the reticence which he still displayed, compelled me to assume the existence of a hidden object, opposed to the views of the Government which I represented.

I also reminded General Strecker that I had several times offered him an opportunity of discussing the question of the dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies, by mentioning that I had, with that object, obtained copies of the "Indian Arms Act," which might to a certain extent have been adopted in this province.

The General endeavoured to exonerate himself from any desire to conceal from me his knowledge of the intentions of the Governor-General in respect to the Gymnastic Societies, but as he continued to profess that all the details of the scheme were unknown to him, I spoke in terms which must have impressed him with the necessity of finally electing between a course of absolute frankness towards myself or a career of devotion to the present advisers of Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 11.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 359. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 15, 1879.

PRINCE TZERETELEW has informed me that he has been authorized by telegraph to take four months' leave of absence from the $\frac{1}{13}$th instant.

It is therefore evident that he only returned here from Livadia for the purpose of arranging the nominal dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies.

I refrained from discussing the latter question with him, but I elicited from him a casual observation to the effect that the arms now in the hands of the gymnasts constituted their private property and could not, therefore, be taken from them.

At the same time he observed that the carrying of arms should only be allowed in the mountains, and more especially on the frontiers of the province—meaning no doubt the frontier with Turkey Proper.

He also seemed to think that advantage would result from the drilling of the former members of the Gymnastic Societies by officers and sergeants supplied by the militia. This is a measure which, as I have already reported to your Lordship, forms part of the second Ordinance signed by the Governor-General, and withdrawn from the press after the departure of his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 12.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November* 15, 1879.

M. J. E. GUESHOFF, who visited London and other capitals last spring, on a mission from the Bulgarian party in this province, was yesterday elected President of the Provincial Assembly by 47 votes out of 51.

The other candidate for the Presidential chair whose name will be simultaneously presented to the Governor-General for confirmation is Dr. Stranski, the Deputy for the eighth electoral district of this department, who has, at the same time, been elected, together with Dr. Stambolski, Vice-President of the Assembly.

The Governor-General will, no doubt, confirm the election of M. Gueshoff, whose attainments and claims to the office of President are certainly superior to those of M. Kessiakoff, whose election to the Presidential chair was at one time generally expected.

The disappointment of the latter must be all the greater, since not a single vote was recorded in his favour, and since, also, he was not even elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.

The Assembly has also elected as Secretaries M. J. S. Gueshoff, Deputy for Hasskeui, and M. Salabasheff, one of the Deputies for the Department of Eski-Zaghra.

The Sheikh of the Dervishes, a Mussulman nominee member, and Dr. Planinski, Deputy for the second district of the Department of Eski-Zaghra, have been elected Questors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 13.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith the translation of an article from the "Maritza" of yesterday's date, commenting upon the Ordinance for the dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies.

It expresses a conviction that the guns and cartridges which have been presented to the Bulgarians, and which constitute their inalienable property, will not be taken from them, and that, on the contrary, the Government will call out "the bans and the reserve" for weekly drill.

The "Maritza" considers that "these guarantees and these exercises form a secure path." It may, therefore, be assumed that the "guarantees" relate to a retention of arms which has been promised by the Governor-General to the representatives of the Gymnastic Societies during their recent negotiations with his Excellency, through the instrumentality of the Russian Consul-General, and that the "secure path" will remain that which those societies have hitherto pursued, under the pretext of promoting the "physical development of the nation."

In these circumstances, the regret of the Bulgarians of this province at the loss of the name of those societies is mitigated, as the "Maritza" points out, by the opportunity now afforded of establishing their "military organization" on "a firm basis worthy of the great originators of that organization and of the great object itself."

The "great object" in question is the complete "Bulgarization" of this province and its speedy union with the neighbouring Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 14.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 362.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis" of this date, on the subject of a sentence rendered by the local High Court of Justice, invalidating the election of M. Antoniades, a Greek gentleman, as Deputy for the district of Stanimaka, on the ground, principally, of the electoral district having been illegally constituted.

The defence of M. Antoniades consisted in showing that he could not be held responsible for the manner in which the electoral districts had been grouped by the Executive, and that, if his nationality was in dispute, proof of his being the subject of a foreign Power should be given by those who opposed his election. On his own part, he simply denied that he had ever divested himself of the quality of an Ottoman subject.

On the other hand, the election of M. Kessiakoff, the Bulgarian Deputy for Philippopoli, has been declared valid, as anticipated in my despatch No. 344 of the 9th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 15.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 363.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 15, 1879.*

THE Governor-General notified to the Assembly, on the 11th instant, that His Majesty the Sultan had expressed a desire to see him, and that he would consequently leave next day for Constantinople, and remain there a few days.

In reply, the Assembly unanimously resolved to present an Address to the Governor-General expressing deep regret at his Excellency's absence from the capital at such a time, although it had, no doubt, been rendered necessary by considerations of great importance, and expressing also a desire for his speedy return, the co-operation of his Excellency being required "for the settlement of questions of primary importance to the condition and interests of the province."

The Address was presented to his Excellency, at the railway station, by the temporary President, who was accompanied by nearly all the members of the Assembly.

The "Maritza," in reproducing the views expressed in the Address, adds that the firm character of the Governor-General, and the experience he acquired on his recent journey in respect to the manner in which the provincial authorities discharged their duties, would enable him to open the eyes of the Porte as to the real state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia. "But if, and God forbid that it should be so," continues the Bulgarian organ, "something unpleasant should occur, it is well that the opportunity should be so highly favourable, as the Provincial Assembly now sitting will be able to lift its voice in defence of the rights of the people and in defence of the autonomy of the province."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 16.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 364.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 15, 1879.*

M. MARÉCHAL, who is well known in connection with the contract which he made with Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff for the farming of the tithes, has been here for some days negotiating a concession for the construction of a line of railway between Yamboli and the port of Bourgas, in this province.

His conditions are for the present considered too high by the local Administration, the sum which he asks for the construction of the line being £ T. 500,000.

He has also offered to make arrangements for an advance of £ T. 200,000 for the relief of the agricultural classes, but the security he asks is likewise considered to be beyond the means of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 17.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 365.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 15, 1879.*

THE Provincial Assembly has been occupied during the past week in discussing its rules of procedure, which were finally voted the day before yesterday.

The principal feature of those rules, so far as I am acquainted with them, is the division of the Assembly into four sections, to which Projects of Laws will be referred for examination, the final report to the Assembly being made by a Commission composed of two representatives of each section.

It is difficult to see how any business can be dispatched under such a complicated system.

At one of the sessions Hadji Ismail Bey, a Mussulman nominee member, called attention to the distress and sufferings of the Turkish refugees, but he was necessarily ruled to be out of order, the question before the Assembly being the elaboration of its rules.

I have the honour to inclose an article from the "Philippoupolis" expressing the dissatisfaction of the Greek members at the attempt of the majority to enforce the exclusive use of the Bulgarian language in documents emanating from the Assembly.

For the present, it has been arranged that copies of motions, &c., will be communicated to the Greek and Turkish members in their respective languages, but the official language of the Assembly will continue to be that of its Bulgarian members.

The very inscription over the outer door of the Assembly indicates its Bulgarian character, the words "Provincial Assembly" being in that language.

The composition, however, of the Assembly does much credit to the Bulgarian section of the population. A considerable proportion of the members are medical men or persons of a certain amount of education. The example of the neighbouring Principality, in electing peasants, has not been followed in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 18.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 366.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of petitions that have recently been presented to the Governor-General by Mussulmans who have returned to the province.

The complaints are of the usual description, except that one of them relates to the murder of a Turk by armed Bulgarians.

I am happy to say that these complaints have become less frequent of late, a fact which shows that it is within the power of the authorities to cause them to cease altogether. Your Lordship will see from my correspondence that, before the attention of the Governor-General and the Prefects had been thoroughly aroused to the injustice with which the Turkish refugees were being treated, my time was almost entirely occupied in listening to complaints.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Petition from the Turks of Yacoub Bey.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Yacoub Bey, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence ce qui suit:

Nous nous sommes rendus à notre village pour construire nos baraques, et pouvoir nous installer; après avoir travaillé pendant huit jours et terminé nos affaires nous devions nous retourner à Philippopoli; le soir où nous faisions notre préparatif de voyage à 2 heures à la Turque de la nuit, le nommé Josek Pechtrelli, l'épicier de notre village, a envoyé trois individus armés dans la maison habité par Mahmoud et Suleyman Agha, et il a fait arrêter et a fait conduire le nommé Mahmoud dans la boutique, et lui a fait part qu'il lui devait 620 piastres. Malgré l'insistance de Mahmoud, l'épicier, Josek Pechtrelli, a pris un reçu du nommé Mahmoud pour la dite somme et il lui a donné la liberté.

Dans la même nuit on a arrêté aussi le nommé Suleyman Hodja et ont pris aussi un sened de lui pour une somme quelconque. Comme nous sommes continuellement maltraités par nos villageois Bulgares, et qu'il nous est impossible de vivre de cette manière, nous prions respectueusement votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit, afin de nous assurer notre tranquillité.

Les habitants du village de Yacoub Boy,
(Signé) MAHMOUD AGHA.
SULEYMAN HODJA.
SEYNEL OGLU RACHID.
SALIH OGLOU SULEYMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Petition from Mustapha Oglou Osman, of Timourdji Lelkova.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, habitant du village de Timourdji Lelkova, district de Roubdjous, relevant du département de Philippopoli, a l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:

Il y a environ quinze jours mon fils Hasim est parti une demi-heure loin de notre village pour voir nos troupeaux; mon second fils, Emin, est parti aussi le second jour pour rejoindre son frère et lui apporter de la nourriture, lequel a resté cette nuit avec son frère, accompagné d'Ali Oglou Ismaïl, de notre village.

A 6 heures à la Turque de la nuit, pendant que ces trois messieurs étaient dans leur doux sommeil, les coups de fusils les réveillent et ils ont vu quatre personnes étrangers auprès d'eux et ces étrangers commencent à tirer des coups de fusils. En réveillant, le nommé Hasim dit à son frère Emin: "Mon frère, on m'a blessé et prenez la fuite." Seuls mots qu'il a pu prononcer, et il expire de suite.

Emin prenant la fuite, il retourne au village et me raconte le fait.

Ismaïl se cache à un endroit tout prêt du cadavre et trois de ces assassins approchent auprès du cadavre; pendant ce temps le quatrième ramasse les moutons et s'en va; les trois autres voyant que Hasim ne donnait aucun signe de vie, ils se sont retirés. Malgré qu'on a tiré des coups de fusil à mon fils Emin, grâce à Dieu ils n'ont pu atteindre à leur but sauvage.

Aussitôt que j'ai pris des informations sur ce fait, j'ai pris avec moi quelques-uns de mes voisins et nous nous rendons sur les lieux. Voyant le cadavre de mon fils, je cours après

ces brigands pour les attraper, après un triage d'une demi-heure je rencontre mes moutons, mais aucun de ces assassins n'étaient là. Cependant Ismaïl, qui se cachait auprès du cadavre, déclare qu'il connaît les noms de deux de ces trois personnes qui sont venus auprès du cadavre, et ignore les noms du troisième et du quatrième, qui avait ramassé et parti avec le troupeau.

L'un se nomme Dimitro Oglou Kristo, et l'autre Kerki Oglou Biko, de notre village. Le lendemain de cet assassinat je fais une pétition au Caïmacam de Djébelli, malgré qu'il a invité ces deux personnes, Dimitro Oglou Kristo et Kerki Oglou Biko; cependant, sans donner aucun jugement, il les a laissé sous garantie, et ces individus continuent leur travail au village.

Avant une semaine j'avais adressé une demande à l'autorité centrale de Philippopoli pour inviter ces gens à suivre l'affaire. Le Procureur-Général m'a répondu qu'il fera venir ici ces individus et examinera cette affaire. Jusqu'à ce jour aucune suite n'a été donnée à cette affaire, et j'attends impatiemment à un résultat. Je prie donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos et faire venir ici ces individus le plus vite possible, et me faire avoir la justice.

Du village Timourdji Lelcova,
(Signé) MOUSTAFA OGLU OSMAN.

Ce 23 Octobre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Petition from Turks of Tatar-Bazardjik.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, émigrés de Tatar-Bazardjik, depuis quelques jours nous sommes retournés à notre village pour prendre possession de nos maisons, terrains, &c.; cependant les villageois Bulgares refusent nettement. Nous nous trouvons actuellement sans abri au milieu de la rue. Malgré notre demande à l'autorité de Tatar-Bazardjik pour nous rendre justice et nous faire avoir nos propriétés selon notre droit, cependant l'autorité n'a donné aucune suite à notre affaire; nous étions obligé de faire une demande à M. le Comptable de Tatar-Bazardjik pour que ce dernier prend en considération nos justes demandes et nous faire rentrer dans nos droits; mais au lieu de nous rendre justice il nous a insulté avec des mots indignes et nous a chassé. Nous nous trouvons donc sans abri au milieu des montagnes, et prions humblement votre Excellence de vouloir bien ordonner pour nous faire prendre possession de nos biens, car vu l'approche de l'hiver nous nous trouvons au désespoir avec nos familles.

(Suivent signatures.)

No. 19.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 369.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, inclosed, the copy of a letter addressed to me by M. Tonjoroff, a Bulgarian Protestant missionary here, in which he gives a very mournful picture of the ill-treatment of which some of the inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Eleshnitza, in Macedonia, are at present the object at the hands of the Turkish local authorities; and intercedes in favour of those unfortunate sufferers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 19.

M. Tonjoroff to Mr. Michell.

IT is with great pain of heart that I come to trouble you again with the sad affairs of Macedonia. But I hope that you will not only excuse me for it, but will also do all you can to help the helpless.

Yesterday we received faithful news that the prisoners of the Bulgarian village of Eleshnitza are exposed to greater sufferings. You know they were imprisoned at Nevrokop. But at the 8th of the present (month) they, with some others, have been bound together, and, without enough clothing and food, have been driven before some policemen towards Serres. It must be known that some of these prisoners are from 75 to 85 years of age, and I know them to be the noblest souls of the inhabitants.

The authorities at Nevrokop know perfectly well that this village has never been in a rebellious movement. Not one among the rebels belongs to it. But they have found ten guns among 300 peaceful houses.

Is this sufficient for such sufferings?

Even the actual rebels received offers of forgiveness. Cannot these poor sufferers be also forgiven for having ten guns to protect themselves against the robbers that filled the mountains last summer and were a scourge to the inhabitants?

Most earnestly I ask you, please do what you can for their release. The case is a very urgent one. There is no one else who can help. The sufferers will be most grateful to you for this great kindness. I plead for them.

The Names of the Prisoners, and Age.

Evan Krupach, 85.
Tsvetko Krupach, 75.
Priest Demetr, 80.
Marko Politoff, 50.
Evan Prematar, 40.
Evan Devesieff, 35.
Todor Tomenoff, 35.
Krusta Tomenoff, 38.
Teodor Takyruk, 25.
Geshe Sevevitch, 20.
Mitra Zavarinoff, 35.

No. 20.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 370.)

Philippopoli, November 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of petitions that have been addressed to the Governor-General by Turkish refugees, on the subject of the treatment which they are receiving at the hands of their Christian brethren.

These copies have been placed in my hands by the petitioners themselves, with an earnest request for my aid and support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Petition from Turks of Tchoulouk.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Tchoullouk, district de Koyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Voulant rentrer dans notre village, les villageois Bulgares nous ont chassés avec des coups de bâtons, et nous étions obligés de nous expatrier. Il y a trois mois nous avons adressé une demande à la Commission des Réfugiés siégeant à Philoppopoli; il nous a été répondu de retourner à notre village et que les Bulgares devraient évacuer nos maisons et nous les céder.

Nous conformant respectueusement aux ordres de l'autorité, une dizaine de familles sont parties il y a dix jours pour s'installer et les autres devaient partir dans quelques jours; cependant nous étions très-étonnés de voir une partie des réfugiés qui sont rentrés dans leurs villages. Ils sont retournés ici vu qu'ils étaient battus et chassés par les Bulgares, et les autres se trouvent actuellement au village sans abri au milieu des montagnes couvertes de neige et sans nourriture. Comme il nous est dus pour les récoltes de l'année passée des villages de Oustrouya, Soltchikova, et Charle, selon la liste de l'autorité, 300 kilés de céréales, nos villageois Bulgares nous ont répondus catégoriquement qu'ils ne nous donneront absolument rien et ils ne doivent pas évacuer nos maisons.

Nous prions donc humblement à votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit pour nous faire restituer le plus vite possible nos propriétés et nous remettre les céréales qui nous sont dues, vu que l'hiver est arrivée et nous sommes sans abri et sans nourriture. En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, nous vous prions d'agréer, &c.

Les représentants des villageois de Tchoullouk,
(Signé) AHMED OGLOU TAHIR.
EUMER OGLOU AALI.

Philippopoli, le $^{7}/_{19}$ *Novembre*, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Petition from Turks of Davoutlar.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants de Davoutlar, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Les soixante-quatre familles que nous représentons se sont rendues à leur village pour prendre possession de nos terrains, propriétés, et céréales de l'année dernière; cependant nous étions étonnés de voir nos villageois Bulgares qui nous ont refusé de nous installer et nous remettre nos récoltes.

Nous étions obligés d'adresser une pétition à la Commission des Réfugiés siégeant à Philippopoli. Sur cela il a été donné l'ordre au Gouverneur de Koroukeuy pour nous donner les céréales qui nous sont dues; cependant jusqu'à ce jour aucune suite n'a été donnée à notre affaire. Nous nous trouvons actuellement sans vivres avec nos familles plongées dans la plus grande misère, et plusieurs personnes sont victimes de mort par suite du manque de pain.

Nous prions respectueusement votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit afin de nous restituer nos récoltes pour pouvoir trouver de quoi vivre. En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Repésentant des villageois de Davoutlar,
(Signé) HASSAN.

Le 3 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 20.

Petition from the Turks of Buyuk-Ova.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Buyuk-Ova, district de Kezanlik, rélevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Emigrés à Constantinople, pendant notre séjour nous étions très-reconnaissants de l'hospitalité qui nous a été donnée à Constantinople. Ayant reçu dernièrement l'ordre de rentrer dans notre village, à notre retour nous étions très-étonnés de trouver nos maisons et propriétés dans un pitoyable état; et on refuse de nous donner les récoltes que nous avons laissées lors de notre départ. Nous avons priés à nos villageois Bulgares de venir à notre aide vu notre critique position, et nous donner les céréales qui nous sont dues; quelques-uns ont eu l'obligeance de nous donner une partie de nos récoltes, mais plusieurs autres nous ont refusé nettement; nous nous trouvons donc dans une position déplorable, sans vivres et au milieu des montagnes couvertes de neige.

Nous vous supplions donc, Excellence, de vouloir bien hâter de donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit afin de donner une prompte solution à notre triste position, car l'hiver a déjà commencé, et nous sommes sans abri et sans vivres.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Représentant du village de Buyuk-Ova,
(Signé) HASSAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 20.

Petition from Villages in District of Roupitchous.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Koredjli, district de Roubdjous, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Il y a déjà un mois que nous sommes rentrés à notre village pour pouvoir nous installer et oublier nos misères passées. Après quelques jours de repos, un soir, au moment où nous étions dans notre doux sommeil, vers 6 heures de la nuit à la Turque, quinze Bulgares, mauvais sujets, ont pénétrés dans une maison habitée par trois familles, et à peine rentrés, quelques-uns sont tombés sur les habitants de la dite maison avec des couteaux à la main pour les égorger, et les autres ont liés les mains des autres habitants, en leur disant que si on ne donnaient pas de suite l'argent et objets qu'ils avaient dans la maison, tous seraient tués; et on suite ils ont commencé à les battre jusqu'à ce qu'ils ont pris la petite fortune que ces malheureux possédaient, et ci-joint nous vous remettons la liste de l'argent et objets volés par ces brigands. Après que ces malfaiteurs ont pris la fuite l'une des victimes est arrivée ici pour porter des plaintes à l'autorité ainsi qu'à la Commission des Réfugiés; cependant, à notre grand regret, aucune suite n'a été donnée à notre demande.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous rendre justice, car une partie de nos villageois se sont expatriés et les autres se trouvent au village au milieu de la rue sans nourriture, espérant que votre Excellence hâtera de faire chercher ces brigands, et nous faire restituer les objets volés; comme il nous est impossible de vivre avec les Bulgares de notre village, nous vous prions de nous faire savoir ce que nous devons faire pour pouvoir nous installer dans nos maisons.

En attendant impatiemment une réponse favorable de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Représentant des villageois de Koredjli,
(Signé) YONOUS OGLOU SALIH.

Le 7/5 Novembre, 1879.

Liste d'Argent et Objets volés par les 15 Brigands à Koredjli.

22 livres Turques.
40 pièces or de 20 piastres chaque.
30 pièces roubié.
1 pièce mahmoudié.
60 pièces kapik.
3 pièces médjidies de 20 piastres.
5 kilés céréales
1 robe pour homme (mintan).
1 turban.
7 chemises de nuit.
4 chemises de nuit courtes.
2 robes pour dames (chalvar).
1 ceinture en argent.
1 soulier (yémeni).

Et divers autres objets.

Inclosure 5 in No. 20.

Petition from Turk of Tahtale.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique,

JE Soussigné, habitant du village de Tahtale, district de Hasskeuï; ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance le fait suivant:—

Il y a dix-huit jours, accompagné du nommé Edris Oglou Veli, j'allais au bazar de Kounale. J'ai rencontré quatre brigands Bulgares qui sont venus sur moi et m'ont arrêté après m'avoir dépouillé; ils ont pris les 480 piastres que j'avais dans ma poche et après m'avoir bien battu, ils ont aussi saisi mon compagnon Edris Oglou Veli. Ils ont pris de ce dernier les 150 piastres qu'il avait sur lui; non contents de cela ils nous ont battus jusqu'au point que nous n'avions pas de force, ni de parler ni de marcher; pendant vingt-quatre heures ils nous ont laissés les mains liées a côté du feu, et ils sont partis au village de Enjék, demi-heure loin, pour acheter du pain. J'ai profité de leur absence et j'ai pris la fuite avec mon compagnon et nous sommes rentrés à notre village, et mon compagnon Edris Oglou Veli, par suite de ses blessures, est tombé au lit gravement malade. En le

laissant chez lui, je suis parti de suite à Stanimaka pour porter plainte à l'autorité. Après avoir pris un gendarme avec moi j'ai fait arrêter un des brigands qui se trouvait au bazar; malgré cela, jusqu'à ce jour aucune suite n'a été donnée à notre affaire. Je vous prie, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien faire venir ces brigands ici et nous faire rendre la justice.

En attendant les ordres que vous jugerez à propos de me donner, veuillez agréer, &c.

Du village de Tahtale,
(Signé) RAHMAN.

Le 9 Novembre, 1879.

No. 21.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 371.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 20*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith extracts from the "Philippoupolis" of yesterday's date relating to the official dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies in this province.

The article written after the publication of the first Ordinance observes, with evident sarcasm, that henceforth the object for which the Gymnastic Societies were instituted can be more easily attained. It says, with perfect truth, that "instead of 8,000 or 10,000 militia, the Bulgarian element of Eastern Roumelia will in future have at its disposal, south of the Balkans, an army of perhaps 50,000 men, well exercised, well equipped, well armed, and ready at the first signal to defend the privileges of this happy country."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1018.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 19*, 1879.

AS I had fully expected, the "Commercial Advertiser" has been punished for publishing the article transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1003 of the 17th November.

I understand that it was at first contemplated at the "Bureau de la Presse" to suspend the newspaper altogether. But this would have been too flagrant an act of injustice when such articles as those inserted in the Turkish newspaper the "Turdjimani-Hakikat" have been allowed to pass unnoticed.

The ingenious device has, therefore, been invented of prohibiting the journal from publishing any political news or discussing politics in future. The reason assigned for this mesure is the frivolous one that the "Commercial Advertiser" contained a telegram sent to Bucharest, stating that Midhat Pasha had asked the Porte to send him 5,000 European troops to suppress trouble in Syria, and that a Russian General had arrived at Constantinople to negotiate for the purchase of four Turkish iron-clads for the Russian Government.

I have the honour to inclose the edict of the Censor of the Press condemning the "Commercial Advertiser" to a punishment which may have the effect of depriving it of readers and subscribers, and a leading article commenting upon it published by the editor, Mr. Whitaker.

As I could not pass this proceeding on the part of the Porte unnoticed, after the manner in which my remarks to Sawas Pasha about the scandalous articles in the "Turdjimani-Hakikat" had been treated, I have instructed Sir A. Sanderson to read to his Excellency a memorandum, of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LARARD.

P.S.—Since writing the above I find that Mr. Whitaker has been released from the penalty inflicted on his paper, which will be allowed to continue as before.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Extract from "La Turquie" of November 19.

Notification Officielle.

ATTENDU que le "Moniteur du Commerce," dans son numéro d'hier, a reproduit une dépêche de Constantinople, adressée au "Sylloghi" de Bucharest, et dans laquelle il est dit que "Midhat Pacha demande de la Sublime Porte 5,000 soldats Européens pour réprimer les troubles de Syrie; et qu'on attend à Constantinople un grand officier Russe, chargé de négocier les conditions de l'achat de quatre cuirassés pour le Gouvernement Russe."

Considérant que ces nouvelles malveillantes, et dénotant, d'ailleurs, une ignorance complète des faits, sont dénuées de fondement;

Considérant que le "Moniteur du Commerce" ne jouissait que par l'effet d'une faveur spéciale de la faculté de publier en même temps des nouvelles politiques;

Vu l'usage abusif que le dit journal a fait, à maintes reprises, dans la publication de ses articles politiques;

Par ordre supérieur la Direction de la Presse interdit au "Moniteur du Commerce" de s'occuper désormais de politique pour se borner exclusivement aux questions commerciales, conformément aux conditions primitives de sa fondation.

Notification du présent Arrêté est donnée à M. D. Bellis, Gérant-responsable de cette feuille.

Le Directeur de la Presse,
(Signé) PERTEW.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ Novembre, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Extract from the "Commercial Advertiser" of November 19.

COMMERCE.—In conformity with a Decree issued yesterday by the "Bureau de la Presse," and published in the "Turquie" of this morning, the "Commercial Advertiser" is about to undergo a radical transformation, and to become a purely commercial organ. The task which the "Bureau" has imposed upon us is in every way congenial, and we accept it with pleasure. Coming as this Decree does immediately after the publication of the programme of reforms, it must not be considered as in any sort of contradiction with them. On the contrary, it is the logical sequence of them, and is the first fruit of the new era of justice inaugurated by the Proclamation which we published yesterday. Of all the blessings of good government, justice is, perhaps, that which exercises the most beneficial influence upon commerce, and without which, in fact, commerce cannot exist. This is the reason why commerce in Turkey is at present cataleptic, and why, at the first glance, it appears somewhat difficult to create a purely commercial journal in Turkey. For the alimentation of a commercial newspaper a certain amount of commerce is necessary, otherwise the newspaper has a tendency to subside into the likeness of the famous work on Irish snakes, which consisted of the single sentence "There are no snakes in Ireland," and its fate would be like that of the "Journal des Travaux Publics" which died simply for want of *travaux publics*. It is evident, however, that the Sublime Porte would not desire to have a commercial newspaper merely for the purpose of recording that, through lack of justice and the other blessings of good government, the country which nature designed to be a great commercial field was barren. Obviously, the Government needs an organ to register, not its failures, but the successes of which it is reassured. The benign touch of justice is about to reanimate the commercial Lazarus, and for us is reserved the grateful task of recording the phenomena of his returning pulsations. The letter which we publish to-day from Marsovan shows that, even in the districts of Asia Minor which were most disorganized by late events, germs of industrial vitality exist which are well worth nursing, and which, if they are not eaten up in the early bud by an omnivorous fisc, will bear good fruit in course of time. We look upon it as a good omen, both for the Government and for ourselves, that we should be able to publish, on this interesting occasion of our transformation into a commercial newspaper, a letter so encouraging. We hope to have many more such, and seeing how irrepressibly expansive are the resources of the country, we are sanguine of the realisation of this hope as soon as the Sublime Porte has sufficiently ripened its plans of improved government. The

importation into Turkey of justice and security, and the fact of their being taken off the market as articles of commerce, will tend to stimulate production and increase exportation, and when to these blessings are added administrative order and a little freedom to enterprise, industry and manufactures will revive. By-and-bye, we shall hear of roads and railways, canals, markets, docks, steam navigation, and many other useful things which are scarcely known in Turkey. Finally, the Ottoman Treasury will honour its own acceptances, and set that example of commercial morality, without which commercial prosperity cannot be attained, or the contents of a commercial journal prove edifying.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has seen with no little surprise that the "Moniteur du Commerce" (or "Commercial Advertiser"), has received an "avertissement," and has been ordered by the Sublime Porte to confine itself to the simple publication of commercial news, and to abstain in future from giving any political news. The reason officially given for this measure is that this newspaper published a despatch addressed to the "Sylloghi" of Bucharest, in which it is stated that Midhat Pasha had asked the Porte for 5,000 European soldiers to repress troubles in Syria, and that a Russian General had arrived at Constantinople charged to negotiate for the purchase of four Turkish iron-clads for the Russian Government.

Her Majesty's Ambassador can scarcely believe that so frivolous a reason is the true one. He regrets that he is compelled to attribute the severity thus exercised towards a journal, the editor and proprietor of which is well known to be an Englishman, to an article published on Monday last containing an able exposure of the scandalous misrepresentations as to the policy of England with regard to Turkey, and the complete answer to the insulting attacks upon her contained in the Turkish newspaper the "Turdjimani-Hakikat" and other Turkish journals.

Her Majesty's Ambassador would be the last person to interfere with the liberty of the Press. Turkish papers, although, according to public rumour, "inspired" by very high public functionaries, may write what they like about England and her policy. Their absurd and malevolent calumnies can only be treated with the contempt they deserve; but Her Majesty's Ambassador cannot but observe, and it is with very sincere regret that he has to report the fact to the Government that, whilst their newspapers are endeavouring by the most untruthful statements to excite the animosity and hatred of the Mussulman subjects of the Sultan against a friendly nation, His Majesty's ancient and faithful ally, although the press in Turkey is under the most strict censorship, no step whatever is taken to expose their misrepresentations, or to put a stop to proceedings which are calculated to produce very serious consequences.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 1019. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 23, 1879.*

I ASKED Sawas Pasha yesterday whether the Porte intended to take any step in consequence of the measures adopted by Aleko Pasha to legalize the Gymnastic Societies by converting them into a reserve, and to secure to them the arms which had been given them by the Russian authorities. His Excellency replied that at the present moment, with the Greek question on its hands, it was the policy of the Porte to avoid all difficulties with Eastern Roumelia, and it had to content itself with protesting against this and numerous other acts of the Governor-General which are contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, and to the Organic Statute, as well as a violation of the sovereign rights of the Sultan. When, however, the Greek question was settled the day of reckoning with Aleko Pasha would come, and the Porte would then have sufficient troops at its command to bring him to reason, and to enforce in the province the stipulations of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1020.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 23, 1879.*

IMMEDIATELY after Baker Pasha's return from England, the Sultan appointed a Commission to prepare and submit to him a scheme for the reorganization of the Turkish army, upon which he placed Baker Pasha. The other members were Captain Dreyssé, His Majesty's French Aide-de-camp, and three or four very competent Turkish officers. Baker Pasha tells me that the Commission has worked with the greatest assiduity, and in constant communication with His Majesty. The scheme has been already prepared, has been approved by his Majesty, and has been sent for examination to the Council of Ministers. Baker Pasha speaks in very high terms of it, and assures me that, if carried out, it will enable Turkey to have in twenty years 1,600,000 men capable of bearing arms, and to put into the field within sixteen years 600,000 men. The cost, he says, will not exceed 5,000,000*l.* a-year.

The Sultan himself gave me these particulars. I congratulated His Majesty on the result of the labours of the Commission, and took the opportunity, when doing so, of pointing out to him how important it was that the Porte, if Turkey was again to become a great military Power, should settle without loss of time the remaining questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin, especially that of the new Greek frontiers; and should then devote all its energies to the reform of the Administration, and to satisfying and rendering prosperous and content all classes of His Majesty's subjects. If His Majesty could unite these great objects with such an increase of military strength, as he had described, he might, I was convinced, be assured that he would give the greatest satisfaction to England, who only desired to see his Empire strong and independent and his people well and justly governed.

The contemplated conscription is to include Christians of all denominations, who are also to be received into the military schools. Captain Swaine will no doubt furnish your Lordship will full details of the scheme of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1022. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 23, 1879.*

SAWAS PASHA asked me yesterday to request your Lordship to use your influence to induce the Greek Government to moderate its demands with respect to the extension of the Greek frontiers.

It had now, his Excellency said, put forward claims to territory much beyond that indicated by the Powers at Berlin as what Turkey might cede to Greece, and had acted in direct contradiction to the expressed views of the Congress. The Greek Delegates at Berlin had commenced by asking for the whole of Thessaly and Epirus. The Representatives of the Powers had absolutely rejected this pretension, and had suggested the valleys of the Kalamas and the Peneus for the new boundary. Now, the Greek Plenipotentiaries had not only demanded those two Provinces, but more besides. So large a concession Turkey could never make, and would be compelled to resist any attempt which might be made to impose it upon her. She was willing to negotiate upon the basis proposed by France, which was the thalweg of the rivers in question, but if the Greeks insisted upon their present demands it would lead to a determined resistance on the part of the Turks, which would render very difficult the satisfactory and peaceful settlement of the question, at which he, as one of the Plenipotentiaries, was most anxious to arrive.

His Excellency hinted that what he called the "De Gubernatis proposal," founded, he said, upon a thorough knowledge of the country and of its populations, was one which might be acceptable to Turkey.

I told his Excellency that I would submit what he had said to me to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1023.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch to your Lordship, No. 369, of the 20th instant, forwarded by the present messenger, I have the honour to state that I have lost no time in bringing to the notice of the Porte the statements respecting the alleged ill-treatment of the Bulgarian inhabitants of Eleshnitza by the Turkish local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1025.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 23, 1879.*

BAKER PASHA informs me that he has succeeded in persuading the Porte to separate the gendarmerie from the police, and no longer to place it under the direction of the Minister of Police. He considers this a very important step gained towards the proper organization and effective employment of his corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 28.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1026.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have forwarded to Mr. Ashburnham a copy of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch No. 117 of the 13th instant, respecting the alleged refusal of the Bulgarian authorities to allow the return of Mahommedan fugitives to their homes, and have instructed him to inquire into the matter, calling his attention at the same time to the statement that it was by the express orders of the Prince of Bulgaria that the refugees were not allowed to cross the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 29.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1031.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship two despatches on military matters from Captain Swaine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Captain Swaine to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, November 19, 1879.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 13 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that information has this day reached me to the effect that the

Russian Government has appointed a Staff Officer to each of the following towns in Asia Minor:—Trebizond, Erzeroum, Van, and Aleppo.

My informant was unable to state whether these officers had already arrived at their destinations, but he gave me the above as fact and not as rumour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Captain and Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Captain Swaine to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, November* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that my information from Adrianople is now of a more defined nature. It fixes the force in that vilayet at 27 battalions of infantry, 14 batteries of artillery, and 6 regiments of cavalry; giving a grand total of about 17,000 men and 84 guns.

This force is thus distributed:—

Stations.	Battalions.	Guns.	Regiments of Cavalry.
Adrianople	9	48	2
Mustafa-Pasha	2	..	1
Tashli-Muselin	2	..	..
Kirk-Kilissé	6	12	1
Demotico	6	12	2
Maleosh	2	12	..
	27	84	6

My informant says:—"The fortifications, earthworks, &c., which were constructed round Adrianople at the time of the Russian war, exist still, but are in an abandoned state, and up to this there is no indication of their being reoccupied by troops."

Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, in his last despatch, gives some interesting details respecting the military preparations in the Province of Thessaly. He says:—

"The existing military arrangement for offensive and defensive purposes may be considered the best under present circumstances.

"Outposts, stations, and earthworks are to be met with at strategic positions throughout Thessaly; and the present distribution of the large forces of the province tends not only to keep brigandage in check, but also to render invasion from Greece highly inexpedient. The originator of the plan, I believe, is the Chief of the Staff, Major-General Naichet Pasha, an active, shrewd, and practical officer, recently arrived from Constantinople.

"On the Pelion Range above Volo, to the north-east and north-west, and on the heights of the Zagora and Aghia districts, earthworks had been constructed and troops stationed. Along the frontier hills of the Armyro district the detached works, thrown up during the late insurrection, are now being occupied by an adequate force of soldiers; while the troops at Demoko are sufficient in number to supply with men the extensive redoubts lying to the south, east, and west of the town. The fortifications of Planari and Tricalla are sufficiently manned and kept in good condition.

"The tranquillity of the town is not only maintained by night patrols moving on their beat, but by sentries posted at all hours of the day wherever three or four streets meet. The more frequented roads of the province are also much better guarded, rendering travelling in the interior comparatively safe."

I will here also add what Mr. Longworth says respecting brigandage in that province, and the measures taken to exterminate it.

"With a further view to public peace and security, all the Albanian mountaineers who had been found in Thessaly without the requisite passport from their country have been seized by the military and expelled to their homes, under the possibility of their being accessory to brigandage. I should, moreover, add that this measure encountered the strong objection and disfavour of the Mussulman population in general, and the landowners in particular, owing to these Albanians being exclusively Mahommedans, and

the greater number of them guardians to estates and farms. Moreover, a circular had been sent a month ago to the Turkish authorities in the neighbouring province to the effect that Saracatchans, Wallachs, Ghegas, Tostas, individually or in nomadic tribes, will not be allowed, as is customary, to enter and settle for the winter in Thessaly without providing themselves with the necessary passport.

"In conclusion, I beg to state that the unceasing endeavours of the military authorities to exterminate brigandage have had most satisfactory results."

Mr. Longworth then proceeds to give a few instances of the more important cases of brigandage that have taken place in the last four months, but which, on the whole, show that, for the present, this evil is decidedly on the wane in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Captain and Military Attaché.

No. 30.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 10. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Galatz, November* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that, as far as I can ascertain, there are now distributed in Bessarabia two Russian army corps, and in addition there are a number of Cossacks between Reni and Ismail, which has been put down at about 25,000, but it seems doubtful whether there are in fact so many. There certainly were a large number of troops collected along this line at the time that Bulgaria was being evacuated, and various rumours were current as to the reasons for their being kept there, amongst others, the prevalence of Nihilist opinions among the soldiery; and the danger of these doctrines being widely disseminated if the troops were dispersed was alleged as a sufficient reason for keeping some 40,000 men at Reni.

It is extremely difficult to obtain any reliable information of what is going on beyond the Roumanian frontier, but such as I have been able to get leads me to conclude that there are, more or less, 100,000 Russian troops scattered through Bessarabia, the two army corps previously mentioned having come from Kischeneff.

There do not seem to be any Russian troops passing through Roumania either in uniform or in plain clothes, but two Russian officers, travelling *incognito*, brought despatches for the Russian Consul a few days ago; these might have had reference to matters connected with the European Commission of the Danube, but it is remarkable that these officers were followed by about twenty more in uniform, who arrived yesterday morning and remain at Galatz, having taken rooms at different hotels.

On the 19th instant a Roumanian Military Council was held at the barracks here which sat with closed doors for four hours; it is at these barracks that passports are viséd, but on this occasion applicants for visas to their passports were informed that nothing of the sort could be done till the following day.

M. Cogalniceano, the Minister for the Interior, was at Galatz on the 19th instant, the reason given by the local papers for his visit being business connected with the Danube Commission in respect of the Sanitary Regulations of the Danube ports. M. Cogalniceano left for Bucharest the same evening, and the two Russian officers who brought despatches have left to-day.

A number of pontoons, in all respects similar to those used by the Russians for crossing the Danube, are now being constructed at Galatz by order of the Roumanian Government; there are from 100 to 150 ready, but the work on them was not going on to-day. It may be that these are merely for connecting the Dobrudscha with Roumania proper in purely Roumanian interests, and that an inspection lately made of the bridge over the Pruth by Russian officers was only a matter of ordinary routine, in the same way that the fact of frequent Military Councils at Galatz (of which there was another to-day attended by General Angheleseu, commanding the Roumanian troops in the Dobrudscha) may be accounted for by this being the season of the inspection of the troops by different Generals; and the order given by this Government for an accurate account to be taken of all kinds of grain in the Galatz district, may have proceeded from a desire to ascertain from what quarters grain can be procured for such of the districts as are said to be likely to suffer from scarcity.

Cartridges ordered by the Roumanian Government from the Birmingham firm of Kynoch, are beginning to arrive; the full order is for 14,000,000; of this number about

2,000,000 have arrived, and are being sent to Ploesti, where there is a Government factory; the remainder are expected before the navigation closes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 31.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 11. Political. Confidential.)
Galatz, November 24, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, Political, of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that one-half of the Russian officers, therein alluded to as having lately come to Galatz, went up to Bucharest by rail last night, and the remainder returned by the Bender railway to Bessarabia.

General Anghelescu has also gone up to Bucharest.

There are now some Russian Naval Officers at Galatz.

Of the pontoons two large ones are said to be destined for bridging the Sereth in case of necessity.

I understand that a French Company has undertaken to execute the repairs of which the Bender-Galatz railway stands in need for the sum of 20,000*l.* sterling

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 32.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 305. Confidential.)
Bucharest, November 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Percy Sanderson kindly keeps me regularly informed on all important subjects of public interest to which he deems it necessary to draw your Lordship's attention.

As regards the contents of his telegram dated the 22nd instant, and repeated to me from the Foreign Office, the reports of a large Russian force assembling in Bessarabia had reached me; and, in connection with this intelligence of similar concentrations of troops in Russian Poland, on the frontiers of Germany and Austria, were likewise mentioned at the same time in the press, but has since been contradicted.

I am entirely at a loss to make out what hostile object could be contemplated by these military preparations; but my long experience of Russian affairs suggests to me an entirely different explanation.

Since the mobilization for war purposes, three years ago, the Russian army has never occupied its regular quarters. On its return from Bulgaria the regiments were sent into camps. It is possible that a new plan for its distribution has been adopted since, and that much larger bodies of various arms occupy cantonments in closer proximity to neighbouring countries than used to be the case formerly; if so, only a knowledge of all the details of such a plan could enable us to form reliable conclusions as to concentrations in excess of such arrangements.

The presence and mysterious journeys of so many Russian staff officers have been noticed by me in my Confidential despatch No. 294 of the 15th instant, and proves beyond doubt that the plans of future Russian aggression are still fully adhered to by the War Department of that Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 33.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 307.)
Bucharest, November 24, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship is probably better informed than I can possibly be as regards the progress of the negotiations on the subject of the recognition of Roumania, for which Austria-Hungary has offered its good offices to Prince Charles.

It is understood here that, at the suggestion of Baron Haymerle that certain declarations and explanations should be made by Roumania on the Jewish question, a Circular was addressed on the 22nd instant by M. Boeresco, a copy of which was to be forwarded through Lord Lyons for Her Majesty's Government.

The Railway Bill is being pushed on through the Chambers to satisfy the exigencies of the German Government, and the Ministers appear to be under the impression that in this way the obstacles to recognition by the four Powers, who have hitherto withheld it, will be effectually and satisfactorily removed through the friendly offices of the Court of Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 34.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 309. Secret.)
Bucharest, November 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I INQUIRED from M. Boeresco how matters stood with regard to the Naturalization Acts, for which many individual Jews had applied to the Government and the Chambers.

The Minister replied that the Government were desirous to be extremely liberal in this matter; but that to effect this in such a spirit it was essential that the Committee of the Chamber, to whom petitions for naturalization have to be submitted, and by whom they have to be reported upon, should be animated by a similar desire.

He further stated, with reference to this subject, that the Government were of opinion that this could be accomplished better by a new Committee, and had, therefore, purposely delayed further proceedings, as in a few days the ordinary Session of the Legislature would begin when a new Committee would have to be appointed as a matter of course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 35.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 310. Confidential.)
Bucharest, November 25, 1879.

My Lord,

PUBLIC opinion at Bucharest and throughout Roumania shows considerable irritation at the delay which is being allowed to interpose between the promulgation of the amendment of the Constitution admitting non-Christians to naturalization, and that recognition by some of the foreign Powers which was to have been the result of that emancipation.

The language which is being employed implies a belief that Roumania had been treated unfairly on this question, and shows the extent of the prevailing ignorance on the subject, as it is evident that the people who make use of it forget how inadequate and incomplete the measure voted by the Chambers has proved to be.

Of course the partizans of Russia, and some of the enemies of the present Ministry, are sedulously endeavouring to increase this bad feeling, and make the Prince and his advisers responsible for everything that happens or is postponed.

It is unfortunate that the railway question has become mixed up in the minds of the Roumanians with that of recognition, and that there is some appearance as if it had an undue importance in the minds of some Powers.

When excited the Roumanians are apt to ask what new pecuniary claims are likely to be pressed upon them pending their recognition and in connection with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 768.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Sanderson's despatch No. 10, Confidential, of the 21st instant, Baron Haymerle was good enough to telegraph to the Austrian Consul-General at Galatz, to report on the visit of the Russian officers, and other matters mentioned in the telegram which was repeated to me by your Lordship on the 22nd instant.

M. de Haan telegraphs, in answer, on the 22nd instant that some Russian officers had been at Galatz; but that they, and amongst them the Inspector of the Bulgarian navigation, arriving from Bulgaria on their way home, had proceeded on their journey without giving occasion for any special remark as to their behaviour.

As regards the pontoons, about 180 boats have been built at Galatz by order of the Roumanian Ministry of War during the last two months, which are destined for the frontier service and to replace the former boats.

Six pontoons are being constructed, but these are for private persons; and, as their construction shows, are destined to serve for the peaceful purpose of transporting carts, passengers, and cattle across the Pruth.

With respect to Bessarabia M. de Haan is making inquiries, which he will not fai to report the results of to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 37.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 772. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 29, 1879.*

I ASKED Baron Calice to-day what the Austrian Government were doing in the way of smoothing the way for the recognition of Roumania by the Western Powers.

He said that if the Roumanian Government request them to assist them in obtaining the recognition they will be asked what it is intended to do for the Austrian Jewish subjects in the Principality; and, upon obtaining satisfactory assurances upon this, the Imperial Government will be ready to lend themselves as intermediaries, in endeavouring to bring about an understanding with the Powers that have not yet recognized the independence of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 38.

Memorandum.—Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, December 2.

LES Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal de Grèce, par la pièce dont ils ont donné lecture dans la précédente séance, répondent aux considérations que leurs collègues Ottomans avaient développées dans leur Mémoire au sujet de la ligne générale résultant des indications du Protocole No. 13.

Ils déclarent tout d'abord que ce Mémoire a eu pour effet de démontrer combien ils avaient eu raison de prêter à leurs collègues Ottomans l'intention d'écarter au plus vite les indications du Protocole No. 13, tout en paraissant disposés à les admettre comme base de discussion. Ils s'étonnent d'ailleurs que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'aient pas cru devoir proposer une autre base de négociations et en concluent que toute discussion ultérieure devrait être considérée comme impossible.

A cette première partie de l'argumentation de leurs collègues, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans répondent que, bien loin d'avoir mis de côté les indications du Protocole No. 13, ils les ont prises, au contraire, ainsi qu'ils l'avaient promis, en haute considération, puisqu'ils les ont examinées avec le plus grand soin et qu'ils ont fait connaître les objections que cette ligne générale leur paraissait soulever, afin de donner à leurs collègues de Grèce l'occasion soit d'admettre ces objections et en conséquence de rechercher en commun les moyens d'y porter remède, soit de les combattre et d'en démontrer le mal fondé. Le reproche n'est donc, en aucune façon, mérité.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes auraient, sans aucun doute, avancé davantage les négociations s'ils avaient sérieusement discuté les objections qui leur étaient soumises, au lieu de se borner à déclarer, comme ils l'ont fait en termes généraux, que ces objections ne sont pas justifiées et que les faits invoqués sont erronés, sans apporter d'ailleurs aucune preuve, aucun raisonnement à l'appui de leurs dénégations.

Dans la seconde partie de leur pièce, les Plenipotentiaires Hellènes rappelant la nouvelle ligne qu'ils ont proposée dans la précédente séance, croient pouvoir affirmer deux choses: la première, c'est que cette ligne nouvelle découle logiquement et naturellement des indications du Protocole No. 13; la seconde, c'est qu'elle obvie entièrement à tous les inconvénients que présentait la ligne générale, telle que l'avaient comprise les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans.

Sur le premier point, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont déjà répondu dans la précédente séance et démontré que dès l'instant où les indications du Protocole doivent être interprétées dans le sens proposé par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, ce n'est point sur les hauteurs septentrionales, mais bien sur les hauteurs méridionales que doit être tracée la ligne générale de Berlin. Ils ont, en outre, affirmé avec non moins de raison et ils continuent à affirmer que la nouvelle ligne n'est même pas conforme à la thèse soutenue par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, puisqu'elle est placée bien au delà des premiers sommets qui dominent les plaines du Calamas et du Pénéus.

A ce propos, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont pris l'engagement, dans la précédente séance, de faire examiner de nouveau par des officiers d'Etat-Major la ligne présentée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes afin de vérifier si, suivant leur affirmation, elle est conforme aux indications du Protocole No. 13, c'est-à-dire si elle était tracée sur les hauteurs limitant au nord les deux vallées.

Ce nouvel examen, très-consciencieux, a prouvé jusqu'à l'évidence que la ligne présentée n'a rien de commun avec les indications du Protocole No. 13. En effet, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, après avoir établi le principe que la ligne du Congrès ne doit point être tracée dans le fond, mais bien sur les hauteurs des vallées, l'ont eux-mêmes et immédiatement méconnu, ainsi qu'on va le voir.

En Epire, leur ligne suit le thalweg du fleuve Voyousta du point Kranda jusqu'à Policeni sur une longueur de plus de 70 kilom. Plus loin, elle traverse en plein la Vallée de Drinos en la coupant au sud d'Argyrocastro au lieu de suivre les Montagnes qui les conduisaient droit sur Conispolis. Il en résulte, qu'en Epire le territoire compris entre leur ligne et celle que l'on pourrait tracer sur les éminences septentrionales de la Vallée du Calamas présente une superficie de 5,000 kilom. carrés.

En Thessalie, l'écart n'est pas moins considérable, car, au lieu de suivre les éminences limitant au nord la Vallée du Pénéus, les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques s'en sont considérablement écartés. D'abord, ils ont compris dans leur tracée la Rivière Kiria, qui est affluent du Pénéus, mais dont la vallée tout-à-fait indépendante et séparée ne saurait, suivant les règles de l'art, être confondue avec celle du Pénéus. Quoiqu'il en soit, et en admettant même que cette vallée puisse être confondue avec celle du Pénéus, la ligne aurait dû, à partir des hauteurs de Capka, s'infléchir de façon à suivre les hauteurs de la Sona pour gagner la mer près de Kara-Derbend, tandis qu'elle fait un nouvel écart absolument arbitraire pour rejoindre la mer près de Malatria. Ce second écart englobe quatre vallées qui n'ont aucune relation avec la Vallée du Pénéus, dont elles sont séparées par des Montagnes. Il s'ensuit qu'en Thessalie la ligne Hellénique enveloppe 4,000 kilom. carrés de plus que n'en comprendrait une ligne normale tracée sur les hauteurs nord de la vallée.

Pour rendre le résultat de cette démonstration plus sensible, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont tracé cette dernière ligne sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, ainsi qu'il suit:

La ligne part de la Mer Egée près de Cara-Derbend, monte entre les villages Crania et Crapsani, suit la Montagne au sud du Lac de Livadaki et se dirige sur Moluwa, couronne les hauteurs qui dominent Tienovo, traverse la Rivière de Xeria pour gagner les hauteurs qui commandent Salambria, au nord, en passant entre les villages Eleftérochoriou et de Cristiano, se dirige sur les Montagnes de Capournia et Cassia, de là suit la crête des

Montagnes de Mezzovo, en passant près de Baltino, Malakessi, Péristeri, Syrakou, Morpi, Néochori, puis, suivant les hauteurs sud de Janina, gagne les hauteurs qui dominent au nord la Vallée du Calamas en passant par Gramos, Veltchista, Zitcha, Zecovina, Delvinaki, Arendista, la Montagne Pharmacovounou, pour aboutir à la Mer Ionienne près de Conispolis.

Sur le second point, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'hésitent pas à reconnaître que la nouvelle ligne inventée par leurs collègues supprime naturellement quelques-unes des objections formulées dans leur Mémoire contre la ligne de Berlin. En effet, pour simplifier le problème du partage des deux provinces et pour éviter les inconvénients de cette espèce de mutilation, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont trouvé un moyen véritablement radical, qui consiste à les absorber tout entières. Malheureusement, cette solution inattendue qui, d'ailleurs, soulèverait de nouvelles et graves difficultés, vient se heurter à la troisième considération exposée dans le Mémoire des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans démontrant la trop grande extension que la ligne de Berlin donnerait à la rectification de frontières, dans l'hypothèse même où la ligne serait tracée au fond des deux vallées. Elle se heurterait également, la Sublime Porte en est fermement convaincue, au sentiment unanime des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans remplissent maintenant le second engagement qu'ils ont pris dans la précédente séance qui était de faire connaître la ligne tracée sur les hauteurs méridionales des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus et qui, suivant l'interprétation que le Gouvernement Royal de Grèce entend donner aux indications du Protocole No. 13, constituerait la véritable ligne générale du Congrès de Berlin.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne croient pas nécessaire de démontrer de nouveau, à cette occasion, que dès l'instant où la ligne ne doit pas être tracée au fond des vallées, ce sont les hauteurs méridionales qui seules peuvent et doivent être adoptées. La préférence qui serait donnée aux hauteurs septentrionales, outre qu'elle blesserait tous les principes du droit et de l'équité, irait certainement à l'encontre du vœu des Puissances, qui n'ont jamais entendu ni désiré que, sous le prétexte d'une rectification de frontières, l'Empire Ottoman fût dépouillé d'une partie aussi considérable de ses Etats.

La ligne tracée sur la partie méridionale des Vallées du Pénéus et du Calamas, part du Cap Posi, gravit la montagne de Ciragiolika qu'elle suit jusqu'à Ghidel, s'infléchit sur Kasimili, passe près d'Avarina, de Rocani, de Rendina, Catachloros, Kirona, Caravi, Carbos, suit les montagnes de Laemos au-dessus de Castania, pour atteindre Péristeri et prendre les hauteurs qui dominent au sud la Vallée de Janina jusqu'à Néochori; de là, gagne Cosmera, Tcharocovista, Zarevouri, Labinica, Néochori, Courtesi, et aboutit à la Mer Ionienne près de Lista dans la Baie de Goumenitza.

D'après l'interprétation donnée aux indications du Protocole par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, cette ligne doit être considérée comme celle de Berlin. C'est donc la ligne sur laquelle doit porter la discussion, à l'exclusion absolue de celle qui a été proposée par la Grèce et qui ne repose, ainsi qu'il a été démontré, sur aucune base rationnelle ni même admissible.

En convinnt leurs honorables collègues à entrer dans l'examen de cette ligne, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent formellement qu'ils ne la présentent pas comme constituant une proposition de leur part, mais comme un simple aperçu de la ligne qui doit être considérée comme étant celle de Berlin, d'après l'interprétation donnée par la Grèce aux indications du Protocole. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent, en outre, que cette ligne présentant des inconvénients analogues à ceux qu'ils ont signalés au sujet de la ligne du thalweg, il est bien entendu que cette ligne est à discuter, et que chacune des deux parties est libre de la critiquer et d'y introduire les modifications qu'un examen attentif et contradictoire pourra suggérer. C'est ainsi que l'on trouvera une ligne remplissant le but que l'Europe s'est proposé et qui, suivant la formule présentée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, consiste à établir entre les deux Etats des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité.

No. 39.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 765.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 1, 1879.

THE Zeitoun affair having come to an end, would you wish Chermside to enter upon his Consular duties? He suggests that upon doing so he might visit the Arab tribes near Aleppo, among which political movement of some importance is believed to be going on. He has been very ill at Tarsus, but is now out of danger.

No. 40.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 766.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 1, 1879

A MAN who had a grievance entered to-day the Medical Council at the War Office, and wounded four of the members with a dagger. The affair has no political importance.

No. 41.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 800.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

YOURS 765.

Chermside should report himself to Wilson, and enter on his Consular duties as soon as his health allows. If Wilson approves of the expedition you suggest, I have no objection.

(Above repeated to Colonel Wilson.)

No. 42.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain de Wolski, R.E.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1879.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 1 of the 24th ultimo, announcing your arrival in England, and the arrangements made by you with regard to the copies of Protocols and maps of the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission, and the disposal of the instruments procured for the purposes of the Commission.

Those arrangements have Lord Salisbury's entire approval.

Lord Salisbury will have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War his sense of the services rendered by you to Major Gordon and also to General Hamley.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 43.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 770.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1879.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 761 of the 26th ultimo, in which you state that Baron Haymerle considers that some steps must before long be taken with respect to the Bulgarian river monitors, which are kept in the Danube in direct violation of the Treaty of Berlin, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government agree with his Excellency.

You will inform Baron Haymerle that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to join either in a remonstrance to Bulgaria on the subject or in a representation to the Great Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 44.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 771.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 2, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 770 of this day's date, on the subject of the Bulgarian war boats on the Danube, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's

Government are disposed to think that Baron Haymerle is right in not admitting the right of Bulgaria to have vessels of war at Varna or to possess a war flag, but, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the two questions had better be kept separate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 45.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 75. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch, with four inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to Saïd Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, who has been selected by the Porte to accompany and assist Baker Pasha in his mission to Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, November 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mehmed Saïd Pasha, the Mutessarif of Thessaly, who has been selected to accompany and assist Baker Pasha's mission in Anatolia, arrived here from Volo yesterday, and left this afternoon for Constantinople.

In referring to my Reports from Thessaly in 1878 relative to the sound judgment and administrative qualifications of Saïd Pasha, I have the honour to report that his departure from that province has caused infinite regret among all classes of the population.

The inclosed translated copies of letters which were addressed to him on the eve of his departure from Larissa by the Greek Metropolitan and community and the Hellenic Colony in that town testify to the popular esteem and regard he has won during his administration of that important province.

The Mahommedan community of Larissa have also expressed their thanks and sympathy to his Excellency, but I have not yet been able to procure a copy of their letter on the subject.

I may add that I availed myself of Said Pasha's short stay at Salonica to show him, on the part of this Consulate-General, all proper marks of attention and regard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—After writing the above Report I received a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, of which Inclosure No. 4 is an extract, relative to the appointment of Saïd Pasha to Anatolia.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Greek Metropolitan of Larissa to Said Pasha.

(Translation.)
Excellency, *Larissa, November 19, 1879.*

HAVING had the happiness to co-operate with your Excellency for more than a year and a-half, I have been able during this period to distinguish from very near the many natural and special talents that adorn your Excellency, and above all the love of justice, impartiality, and incorruptibleness of your character.

Deeply sorry do I and my Christians feel for your departure from here. Assuring you that I always will remember the many benefits conferred on my nation during

your Excellency's administration, and expressing at the same time my individual high esteem,

I remain, &c.
(The Metropolitan of Larissa)
(Signed) NEOPHITUS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

Representatives of Greek Community of Larissa to Saïd Pasha.

(Translation.)
Excellency, *Larissa, November 19, 1879.*

WE, the undersigned Representatives of the town of Larissa, have the honour to submit to your Excellency our hearty thanks for the strict, just, and impartial administration of your Excellency in this province, and to express at the same time our regret for your removal.

We remain, &c.
(Follow 30 Signatures.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 45.

Hellenic Colony at Larissa to Saïd Pasha.

(Translation.)
Excellency, *Larissa, November 20, 1879.*

THE Hellenic Colony of Larissa having learned with deep sorrow the removal of your Excellency, hasten to express, through this letter, their gratification during the entire stay of your Excellency in this province, and to testify your excellent and just management during circumstances more or less critical.

Expressing our deep regret at your departure, we beg your Excellency to accept our deep respects.

(Follow 15 Signatures.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 45.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, November 19, 1879.*

SAID PASHA'S departure from Thessaly is causing regret here.

All liked him, I may say loved him, except the military.

This was not the place for him to distinguish himself in, as the Generals are now in Thessaly the powers that be; but I have no doubt that in Asia he will not fail to rouse his at present dormant energies, and do for his country what is expected of him.

Letters of thanks for his friendliness and justice are being addressed to him by the different communities of Larissa. I shall send you a Report on this subject by next mail.

No. 46.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 80. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 4, 1879.*

WITH a view to the course to be taken by the Asiatic Boundary Commission when it reassembles next spring, I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter from General Sir Lintorn Simmons, containing observations upon your despatch No. 84 of the 27th September.

I shall instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to be guided by the considerations set forth in this and Sir L. Simmons' previous letter in any communications

which he may have with the Russian Government upon the subject on his return to his post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 47.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Gordon.

(No. 21.)
Foreign Office, December 3, 1879.

Sir,

THE labours of the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission being now terminated, it only remains for me to express to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of the manner in which you have discharged your duties as the British Member of that Commission.

I shall have great pleasure in mentioning to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War my recognition of your services, and I have no doubt that it will be agreeable to you that I should bring to Colonel Stanley's notice the efficient assistance rendered by Captain de Wolski both to you and to General Hamley.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 48.

Lord Tenterden to Sir R. Thompson.

Foreign Office, December 3, 1879.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Colonel Stanley, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Captain de Wolski, R.E., announcing his arrival in England and the steps taken by him to wind up the business of the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission.*

I am further to inclose a copy of a despatch addressed to Major Gordon, the British Member of the Commission, expressing entire approval of his proceedings.† Lord Salisbury wishes also to bring to Colonel Stanley's notice the services rendered by Captain de Wolski, R.E., who has not only rendered very efficient assistance to Major Gordon, but also voluntarily took part in the surveys required by General Hamley for the purposes of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission, and materially contributed to the expeditious completion of the work.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 49.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 4.*)

(No. 767.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, December 3, 1879.

FOLLOWING received from Consul Blunt, dated to-day:—

"The Governor-General received yesterday from Porte a draft of a general Organic Statute to be instituted in [? Turkish] provinces in accordance with XXIIIrd Article of Treaty of Berlin, with instructions to submit it to a local Commission.

No. 50.

Major Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 5.*)

(No. 34.)
War Office, December 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of the 11th September, approving the arrangements proposed in my despatch No. 30 of the 2nd September with

* No. 1, November 24.

† No. 47.

regard to the maps of the Servian Boundary Commission, I have the honour to transmit herewith 100 photozincograph copies of these maps, prepared by the Director of the Ordnance Survey, Southampton, by permission of the First Commissioner of the Office of Works.

One set of the maps in portfolio herewith is submitted for your Lordship's approval, as the official set for record in the Foreign Office.

A set of the maps for each of the Commissioners is forwarded herewith in seven separate packages. I beg to recommend that these seven sets be sent to the several Commissioners.

In the annexed statement (A) I beg to submit the arrangements I would propose for the disposal of the remaining 92 sets of copies.

The original set of maps in tin cylinder is transmitted herewith, and I beg to request that this set of maps, forming part of the archives of the Commission, be sent to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Resident, Belgrade, to be deposited provisionally at the French Legation, Belgrade, in accordance with the arrangement agreed to by the Commission at their last meeting on the 19th August last, and communicated to your Lordship in the concluding paragraph of my despatch No. 29 of the 20th August.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 50.

STATEMENT (A).—Proposed distribution of 92 sets of copies of the Servian Boundary Commission Maps.

	Sets.	
For Foreign Office use	15	
French Commissioner	11	Specially asked for by M. Aubaret.
M. le Consul-Général Aubaret.		
German Commissioner	9	
M. le Commandant von Alten.		
Austro-Hungarian Commissioner ..	9	
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bilimek.		
Russian Commissioner	11	Specially asked for by M. Koulbars.
M. le Colonel Baron A. Koulbars.		
Italian Commissioner	9	
M. le Commandant Vellini.		
Ottoman Commissioner	17	Specially asked for by Yahya Pasha.
M. le Général Yahya Pasha.		
Servian Commissioner	11	Specially asked for by M. Jovanovich.
M. le Colonel M. Jovanovich.		
	92	

The set of maps above enumerated being packed for transmission to the several Commissioners in wooden boxes, tin lined, and hermetically sealed.

No. 51.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 109.)
Foreign Office, December 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 269 of the 18th ultimo, and to state to you, in reply, that I approve the language held by you, as reported in that despatch, upon the question of the Turco-Greek frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

Captain de Wolski to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 6.*)

(No. 4.) *Brompton Barracks, Chatham, December 4, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose three spare sets of maps of the Eastern Roumelian frontier, and also sheets Nos. 10 to 19 with *tableau d'assemblage* to complete the set forwarded to your Lordship by Major R. Gordon from Constantinople.

The remaining six sets of maps have been distributed in the following manner, viz.:—Inspector-General of Fortifications one copy; Intelligence Department one copy; Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople, one copy; Consul-General, Philippopoli, one copy; Major Gordon, Cyprus, one copy; Captain F. R. de Wolski, R.E., one copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. DE WOLSKI.

No. 53.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 6.*)

(No. 8. Silistria.) 14, *St. James' Square, S.W., December 6, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that I expect to finish early next week the work of the Silistria Technical Commission and of the past season's operations of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission.

At the last séance of the latter Commission, the 1st May, 1870, at Ragusa were fixed as the time and place for meeting to resume operations next summer.

This will necessitate leaving England by the middle of April at latest.

Under these circumstances I have the honour to inquire if it is desired that I should report to the military authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E., Commissioner.*

No. 54.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 6.*)

(No. 92.) *Rome, December 5, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday. His Excellency treats as pure exaggeration the information received from Aden. The Italian Government is not sending either an iron-clad or frigate to the African coast, and have no intention whatever of annexing any port in those regions. They had, as stated in my despatch No 443 of the 20th ultimo, intended sending two ships, one of which, an old iron-clad, to afford protection to Rubatino; but in order to put a stop to all misconception, they have now decided on not sending this iron-clad, but only a vessel belonging to the Royal Navy which cannot be called a ship of war, with the double object of aiding the geographical explorers and of giving countenance to Rubatino.

On my observing that Her Majesty's Government were naturally very attentive to the proceedings of foreign Powers in the Red Sea, his Excellency said that he perfectly understood this, and that so anxious was he for the best understanding with England, that, for this reason only, he should avoid anything the appearance even of which might arouse their susceptibilities. He added that in aiding the operations of the Geographical Exploration Society he believed the Italian Government were furthering objects of common interest to all nations, especially to England. He absolutely disclaimed any political objects.

No. 55.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 6.*)

(No. 768. Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, December 5, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE heard on very good authority, although I give the information under reserve, that the Sultan has promised the Albanian representatives, who are now here, that he will constitute Albania into an autonomous province, with Janina or Monastir for its capital, and that an Imperial Iradé to this effect would be issued, only the matter is to be kept very secret for the present.

The impression at the Palace is that Moukhtar Pasha will be unable to effect the surrender of Gussinjé-Plava, although the Sultan appears to be acting in good faith in the matter.

No. 56.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 93.) *Rome, December 6, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIAN Government yesterday made a communication to Minister for Foreign Affairs about the Jews, with which his Excellency expressed himself fully satisfied, and added that Count Tornielli's credentials would be sent to him immediately.

No. 57.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 769.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Minister has, I understand, informed the Porte that a sudden attack has been made by the Albanians upon a body of Montenegrin troops, and that the latter suffered very considerably, although they ended by repulsing the enemy.

The Prince of Montenegro considers this to have been a treacherous attack, and declares that, unless Gussinjé be delivered up to him by the 12th instant, he will seize it by force, and take a bloody revenge upon the Albanian inhabitants.

No. 58.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 22.) *Bucharest, December 6, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Government notified to Roumania official recognition to-day. Arrival of the Italian Minister expected immediately.

I am [group wrong] your Lordship's instructions.

No. 59.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 8.*)

(No. 276.) *Athens, November 27, 1879.*

My Lord,

AFTER the murder of some travellers by brigands near Marathon, which occurred in 1870, a very stringent law, to continue in force for four years, for the suppression of brigandage, was passed by the Greek Legislature in 1871. Copy of this law was forwarded to your Lordship's Department by Mr. Watson in his despatch No. 4 of the 17th April of the same year.

It proved very effective, and brigandage was immediately put an end to.

As some cases of brigandage have recently occurred in Greece, the Government,

having obtained from the last Chamber the requisite authority, have put the above-mentioned law again in force.

A certain relaxation, for party purposes, of police action during the late election, is probably responsible in some degree for its reappearance at the present time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 60.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 278.) *Athens, November* 28, 1879.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 271 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose the Protocol No. 5 as published in the "Messager d'Athènes" of the Conferences at Constantinople for the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

Protocole No. 5.—Séance du $\frac{28\ \text{September}}{10\ \text{October}}$, 1879.

Présents :

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Safvet Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Saïb Pacha,
Son Excellence Sawas Pacha.

Pour la Grèce—
Son Excellence M. A. G. Coundouriotis,
Son Excellence M. Braïlas Arméni,
M. Pano Colocotroni.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures et demie de l'après-midi.

Le Protocole No. 4 est approuvé.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas, prenant la parole, s'exprime en ces termes :—

"Je regrette d'avoir à vous dire que la réponse de notre Gouvernement à la déclaration que vous nous avez fait l'honneur de nous remettre à la fin de la dernière séance n'est pas affirmative.

"En revanche, nous sommes autorisés à vous proposer une Déclaration dont le texte déjà approuvé par la France, la Russie, l'Italie, l'Autriche-Hongrie et l'Allemagne a été accepté par notre Gouvernement. Nous nous empressons de vous communiquer cette Déclaration comme une nouvelle preuve de notre désir personnel et du désir général de voir la discussion entrer le plus tôt possible, et sans arrière-pensée, dans le fond de la question.

"Voici cette Déclaration :—

"'Le but des négociations actuelles étant de faciliter aux deux Etats une entente, désirée par l'Europe à Berlin, sur une rectification de frontières destinée à établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce des rapports de réciproque et stable sécurité, les deux parties sont d'accord pour accepter comme point de départ et comme base de discussion les indications du Protocole No. 13.'

"Le texte que nous avons eu l'honneur de vous lire," continue Son Excellence, M. Braïlas, "n'a pas besoin de commentaire. Clair et simple dans sa concision, il est en même temps très-compréhensif; il répond à toutes les exigences; il évite soigneusement tout ce qui pourrait faire renaître des difficultés ou préjuger la marche et les résultats des négociations intérieures. Ces négociations peuvent donc commencer immédiatement, si vous le voulez bien, avec la plus entière liberté de discussion. Toutes les conséquences légitimes de cette liberté en découlent tout

naturellement. Nous serions très-heureux de voir commencer nos travaux, auxquels nous désirons comme vous une issue utile à nos deux pays."

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha explique comment il comprend la Déclaration dont il vient d'être donné lecture. Il est bien entendu," dit-il, "que, suivant cette Déclaration, nous allons commencer nos négociations en prenant pour bases premières les indications géographiques du Protocole No. 13 qui seront mises en discussion, et il est clair que ce qui est mis en discussion est sujet à modification puisque tout ce qui ne peut être modifié est hors de discussion."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas répond que ses collègues et lui n'ont rien à ajouter à la Déclaration dont il a eu l'honneur de donner lecture, et qui n'est pas uniquement du Gouvernement Royal. Il déclare que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes sont prêts à entrer en matière.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha regrette de constater qu'aucun pas n'a été fait depuis la dernière séance, puisque chaque partie conserve son point de vue.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas répète que la Déclaration Hellénique est claire et précise, et écarte tout malentendu. Il pense qu'on peut entrer en matière, et il s'estimera heureux, il dit, de voir la discussion aboutir à un résultat satisfaisant. Il prie, dès lors, ses collègues Ottomans de commencer la discussion aujourd'hui même ou à une autre séance.

Son Excellence Safvet Pacha fait remarquer que pour lui la Déclaration Hellénique n'est pas aussi claire et précise que le dit son Excellence M. Braïlas puisqu'il a senti le besoin de l'expliquer.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, prenant la parole, dit que la pièce dont il vient d'entendre lecture étant une déclaration commune doit être de part et d'autre interprétée de la même façon. Autrement, ce serait créer un malentendu qui, loin de faciliter une entente, aurait pour effet de l'éloigner ou de la compromettre. "C'est pour éviter ce malentendu," ajoute son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "que son Altesse Safvet Pacha a précisé la manière dont les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans entendent cette Déclaration commune, et c'est à présent à leurs collègues Helléniques de leur dire qu'ils l'entendent de la même manière.

L'accord si désiré dépend entièrement d'une réponse affirmative des Plénipotentiaires Helléniques qui seule pourra clore l'incident, et permettre aux Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte d'entrer en matière.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas fait observer qu'il trouve tout commentaire superflu par cela même que la Déclaration Hellénique est très-explicite, et n'exclut aucunement la discussion ni aucun de ses résultats.

Son Excellence M. Coundouriotis dit que la Déclaration déposée par ses collègues et lui est claire et précise, et il croit qu'on peut entrer en matière. Il invite ses honorables collègues Ottomans à répondre s'ils l'acceptent telle quelle ou s'ils la repoussent.

Son Excellence Safvet Pacha dit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans acceptent la Déclaration Hellénique avec les éclaircissements indispensables, et ayant pour but de préciser le sens et la portée de cette Déclaration. "Ceci est d'autant plus naturel," continue Sawas Pacha, "que les Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte étant restés étrangers à la rédaction de cette pièce, sentent la nécessité de la rendre par des explications ultérieures plus conforme à leur point de vue."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas fait observer que cette explication n'est point nécessaire, car, ainsi qu'il l'a déjà dit, la Déclaration Hellénique est suffisamment claire. Il dit, en outre, qu'il ne saurait admettre l'interprétation de ses collègues Ottomans, parce qu'elle est non pas une interprétation, mais une reproduction des Déclarations antérieures qui n'ont pas été acceptées. Il regrette de ne pouvoir rien ajouter ni rien retrancher à la Déclaration Hellénique qui est très-large. Il finit en déclarant que ses collègues et lui ne sont pas autorisés à s'en éloigner.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha s'étonne de voir que ses honorables collègues de Grèce veulent imposer aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans un texte qu'ils ont préparé seuls, mais qui est formulé au nom des deux parties. Par ce texte," dit-il, "on nous fait parler sans nous consulter, et puis on vient nous dire :—'Nous vous faisons parler, il est vrai, sans vous consulter, mais ce que nous vous faisons dire est tellement clair, tellement précis, tellement concis, tellement compréhensible qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de l'expliquer. Si vous ne le comprenez pas assez, tant pis pour vous ; vous devez le subir sans chercher à le comprendre, sans qu'il vous soit permis de l'expliquer, car nous autres nous le considérons comme parfait, et que tout perfectionnement apporté par vous à ce travail commun est inacceptable.' Si c'était nous," ajoute son Excellence, "qui, ayant préparé une Déclaration commune, vous

la présentions, et vous déclarions qu'elle réunissait toute la clarté possible et toute la précision voulue, et qu'il vous était interdit de l'expliquer ou de la préciser, qu'auriez vous dit de notre procédé, et qu'aurait pensé l'Europe d'une pareille conduite? Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, au lieu de se révolter contre une pareille exigence, ne vous demandent que de leur permettre de vous dire comment ils comprennent le travail que vous avez préparé tant en leur nom qu'en votre nom propre, et de vous demander si vous le comprenez de la même façon. Ces explications, fussent-elles mêmes inutiles, devraient être accueillies avec empressement puisqu'elles ne contredisent ni votre pensée ni le sens de votre texte."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas fait observer que son Altesse Safvet Pacha vient de faire une nouvelle proposition, et qu'elle est inacceptable. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans avaient, sans doute, le droit de le faire, mais il constate que malheureusement ils se trouvent en désaccord avec les Plenipotentiaires Hellènes. Il ajoute que la Déclaration Hellénique ne lie personne, et qu'elle n'est qu'une proposition qu'on offre à l'acceptation des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sans l'imposer. On peut la discuter librement. "Chacun peut avoir," continue-t-il, "dans son for intérieur sa manière de comprendre cette proposition, mais du moment qu'il les exprime sous la forme d'une proposition il donne par-là même à l'autre partie le droit de l'admettre ou de la rejeter."

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait observer à l'honorable préopinant que pour rejeter les explications données par une des parties sur les paroles que l'autre lui met dans la bouche, il faut avoir des raisons puissantes; tandis qu'ici son Excellence rejette les explications des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sans motiver ce rejet, et tout en déclarant que chacun conserve sa pleine liberté d'action si hautement proclamée, demande Sawas Pacha, "si nous ne sommes pas libres d'expliquer une déclaration faite en notre nom?

"Si on nous disait au moins," continue-t-il, "telle partie de vos explications lèse les intérêts que nous sommes appelés à défendre, nous comprendrions nos collègues. Mais on se limite à nous déclarer que notre pensée, toute commune qu'elle est, ne doit pas être exprimée écrite. Ceci, notre intelligence se refuse à le comprendre. Cependant," poursuit Sawas Pacha, "nous devons nous mettre d'accord, et ce n'est qu'en faisant bon accueil aux explications réciproques que nous pouvons y parvenir. On nous dit encore: 'Notre Déclaration n'a pas besoin d'explication; elle est très-claire.'

"Ce n'est pas étonnant qu'elle le soit pour MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, puisqu'ils en sont les auteurs, et qu'ils savent certainement ce qu'ils ont voulu dire. Pour nous elle ne l'est pas, et nous sentons le besoin de l'expliquer. En qui les termes de notre explication ne répondent-ils pas à leur pensée? Nous serions désireux de l'apprendre. Nos honorables collègues nous disent que leur Déclaration est compréhensible, large. Mais alors nos explications doivent y trouver facilement leur place. Pourquoi les repoussent-ils? Nos efforts conciliants seront-ils condamnés à venir une troisième fois se briser contre un *non possumus*? Il est cependant grandement temps de changer de système, et pour commencer il faut signaler les raisons qui rendent inacceptable notre explication, ce que j'exhorte nos honorables collègues de vouloir bien faire pour accélérer l'entente désirée et la réussite de nos travaux."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas dit qu'il ne répétera pas que l'interprétation de ses honorables collègues est inacceptable, parce qu'elle n'est pas une interprétation, mais une proposition qui reproduit des propositions antérieures. Il constate que la discussion est vidée, et que dans les quatre séances de la Conférence on a trop parlé, et malheureusement rien ou peu fait. Dès lors, il déclare ne vouloir pas ouvrir de nouveau les débats. Il insiste sur la Déclaration Hellénique qui a précisément pour but de clore les discussions générales et d'ouvrir d'un commun accord la voie aux discussions spéciales et pratiques.

"Cette Déclaration," ajoute-t-il, en terminant, "a, du reste, l'approbation des Cinq Puissances Européennes. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter la vôtre parce qu'elle n'est pas une explication, mais une nouvelle proposition, comme j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous le faire observer. Voilà notre dernier mot."

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha constate, de son côté, que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont déjà fait deux tentatives de rapprochement sans que malheureusement elles aient abouti.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas répond qu'il y a eu deux documents de la part de la Sublime Porte et deux autres du Gouvernement Royal. Cette phrase préliminaire de la contestation est close; elle a été épuisée par des écrits et par des discours.

Il n'y a plus rien à dire. Les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques ne peuvent rien ajouter à leur réclamation ni par écrit ni de vive voix. Il ne leur reste qu'à demander les ordres du Gouvernement.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha prie leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes de vouloir bien de nouveau prendre acte que leurs collègues Ottomans sont prêts, en raison de la haute autorité qui s'attache au vœu exprimé par les Puissances, à prendre pour bases premières de leurs négotiations les indications du Protocole No. 13, c'est-à-dire, à étudier ensemble la ligne générale des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus pour l'adopter ou la modifier suivant qu'après discussion elle paraîtra destinée ou non à établir entre les deux pays des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas dit que s'il n'était pas décidé à ne pas rouvrir le débat il pourrait prouver très-facilement que tout ce que son Altesse Safvet Pacha vient de dire est identique aux précédentes Déclarations, mais qu'il s'abstiendra d'analyser les paroles de son Altesse, et qu'il prend son invitation *ad referendum*.

La séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) SAFVET.
ALI SAÏB.
SAWAS.
A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.
BRAÏLAS ARMÉNI.
PANO COLOCOTRONI.

No. 61.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 632.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 3, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 612 of the 24th ultimo, I to-day informed Baron Jomini that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the moment has hardly yet arrived for taking the steps suggested in the proposal of the Russian Government that the duty should be intrusted to the Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople, in concert with the Porte, of giving the sanction of Europe to the acts of the different Delimitation Commissions. The reason for this opinion, I stated to Baron Jomini, was the fact that two of the boundaries prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin have not yet been demarcated, viz., that between Montenegro and Turkey, and that between the Russian and Turkish territories in Asia.

His Excellency expressed his regret that their proposal, which had been intended as only a preliminary step, and to avoid future delay, should not have found favour with Her Majesty's Government. While admitting the justice of your Lordship's reasoning as regards the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, he urged that there was no connection between the European Delimitation Commissions and that for the delimitation of the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia. There a part was to be settled by Russia and Turkey alone, and the rest by those two Powers in concert with England.

I reminded Baron Jomini that the Asiatic Commission was just as much a creation of the Treaty of Berlin as were the European Commissions, but I added that I would inform your Lordship of the remarks made by his Excellency on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 62.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 633.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 3, 1879.

IN the course of the conversation reported in my immediately preceding despatch, Baron Jomini observed that the Russian Government consider the Silistrian Technical Commission has exceeded its powers in the opinions which its various Commissioners have given.

His Excellency contended that those Commissioners had no other mission except to judge of the possibility or not of making, at the point which had been indicated by the Russian member of the Delimitation Commission, a bridge which would enable Roumania

to communicate freely across the Danube to the Dobrudscha without injuriously interfering with the suburbs of Silistria. His Excellency therefore argued that, as they had agreed that the bridge could be built where Russia had suggested, they had no business to make their final verdict depend on questions of expense or of existing roads, and means of communication with the future bridge.

I begged to disagree with Baron Jomini entirely on that point. The Commission had been appointed to examine the best site for the bridge, in which certainly the question of expense in building it and of the facility already existing of access were most important factors.

His Excellency then said that he wondered which Government would take the next step, and ask the different Cabinets for their decision; Germany, as the Congress had been held in Berlin, would be the right one to do so, but, if the other Powers preferred, he supposed M. de Giers would have no objection to take the initiative in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 63.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 580.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 582 of the 24th ultimo, recording a conversation with Count Münster on the subject of the recognition of Roumania, I learn that the Roumanian Government, having solicited the good offices of the Austrian Government in the matter, Baron Haymerle has advised them to address a formal note to him, which he can communicate to the Governments of England, Germany, France, and Italy, accompanied by an invitation on the part of the Austrian Government to accede to their request.

This advice has been given, I understand, with the concurrence of the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 64.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 584.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 3, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 594 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the German Government have accepted in principle the proposal of the Russian Government that the duty shall be intrusted to the Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople, in concert with the Porte, of giving the sanction of Europe to the acts of the different Commissions instituted under the Treaty of Berlin for the delimitation of the frontiers of Servia, Bulgaria, and Eastern Roumelia, on condition that the work of the Commissions has been previously completed—which is not yet the case—that no other subject is submitted to the Conference for consideration, and the Arab-Tabia question has been definitively settled by the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 65.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 770.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1879.*

MIDHAT PASHA having directed the Governors under him not to carry out the new regulations with regard to the administration of justice, which has caused so much confusion and dissatisfaction in the provinces, I am told confidentially that the Council

of Ministers has decided, in consequence of this act of disobedience, to recall him and to submit him to trial. As he has enemies, and the Government and the Sultan suspect him, I have no doubt that this opportunity is taken to get rid of him. His dismissal will make a bad impression in Syria.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 771.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1879.*

RUSTEM PASHA declines to accept the appointment of Governor-General of Erzeroum on the plea of failing health. A Christian will be chosen for the place, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that four Christian Valis will be named.

No. 67.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 8, 1879.*

I HAVE told Count Münster that we thought three Western Powers ought to recognize Roumania simultaneously whenever they did it, and that it was desirable not to delay much longer.

(Repeated to Paris and Bucharest.)

No. 68.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 8, 1879, 1·30 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following figures from Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest, dated Saturday:—

"Italian Government notified to Roumania official recognition to-day. Arrival of the Italian Minister expected immediately."

Ascertain at once from the Minister for Foreign Affairs what course his Government proposes to take.

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 772.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 8, 1879, 1 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 770, I have strongly urged inexpediency and danger of recalling Midhat Pasha, and I am promised that, although his conduct in refusing to carry out a law and to obey orders is inexcusable, he will not be recalled.

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.†

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 8, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

ITALIAN Ambassador informed me that recognition had been formally communicated to Roumanians, but that Count Tornielli would delay presenting his credentials for some days in order to give Western Powers opportunity of doing so at same time.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government would not move without her allies, but that I thought the time was rapidly approaching for putting an end to the present indeterminate relations of the Powers with Roumania.

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* Also to Lord Odo Russell. † Also to Mr. White.

No. 71.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.**

(No. 570.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 8, 1879.

THE Italian Ambassador informed me that the Roumanian Government had been formally made acquainted with the recognition of Roumania by Italy, but that Count Tornielli had been instructed to delay presenting his credentials for some days, in order to give the Western Powers an opportunity of adopting a similar course; at the same time I stated in reply that Her Majesty's Government would not move in the matter without previous agreement with their allies; but that, in my opinion, the time was rapidly approaching for putting an end to the present indeterminate relations existing between the Powers and Roumania.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.†

(No. 1456.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 8, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest the following telegram, dated on Saturday last:—

"The Italian Government have to-day notified to that of Roumania their official recognition of that State. The immediate arrival of the Italian Minister is expected."

I have to request that your Excellency will endeavour to ascertain at once from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs what course his Government proposes to adopt in regard to the recognition of Roumania by France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 612.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I have informed his Excellency Count Münster that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it was desirable that whenever Roumania was recognized by the three Western Powers the recognition should be simultaneous, and that it was expedient not to delay doing so much longer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 74.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 136 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Mr. Malet (No. 862 of the 5th October), forwarding a translation of a petition received at the British Vice-Consulate at Varna relative to outrages stated to have been perpetrated within a recent period upon Mahommedans in Bulgaria by their Christian neighbours, and instructing me to take steps towards a close investigation into the truth of the statements alluded to, and to report accordingly to your Lordship without delay.

I have the honour to report that, by the present mail, I have directed Mr. Brophy, the Acting Vice-Consul at Varna, to lay the matter seriously before the district Governor there residing, to the intent of strict and searching investigation on the spot. I have

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. White.
† A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Odo Russell.

further given information to the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and through him to the Minister for Home Affairs, urging a similar communication on the part of the latter to the district Governor and other local officials at Varna. And I regret that circumstances do not permit of my being personally present during the investigation on the spot.

A full Report on the result of the above inquiries shall be transmitted with as little delay as possible to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 75.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that, during a private audience yesterday, His Highness Prince Alexander expressed himself to me in terms of the deepest vexation and even anxiety regarding the condition of the eastern portion of this Principality, where, in spite of all efforts made to put it down, brigandage continues on an extensive scale, its head-quarters being the districts of Varna, Baltchik, and the Deli-Orman.

The brigands, though mostly recruited from among the Mahommedan inhabitants thereabouts in preponderance, count a tolerable number of Christians too among their ranks, and the peaceable classes, Christian or Mahommedan, suffer equally from their outrages. It is on facts of this nature, distorted and often exaggerated, that are based the calumnious statements of Mahommedans persecuted as such by Christians within the Principality.

While discussing with me the police measures necessary to remedy these disorders, His Highness suggested that half-a-dozen or so well-trained members of the English police force might help better than any others to form and to give a proper tone to the Bulgarian force. The principal difficulty would lie in the language. Germans His Highness did not wish to multiply in the Principality; of Russians he was resolved to have, except in the regular militia, no new ones, and even to get rid of the old, of whom he spoke with considerable bitterness, as soon as possible; Frenchmen, except a specialist or two, he did not require.

As the Anglicization of the police force, though in itself a most excellent thing, might, as matters stand, not be considered desirable by Her Majesty's Government, I thought best neither to encourage nor yet positively to discourage His Highness' proposal, but led the conversation on to other topics, in which I respectfully trust that I have your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 76.

Mr. Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November* 22, 1879.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 219, Political, of the present date, I have the honour to report:—

That early in the month of August last His Highness Prince Alexander, being aware that a large number of Mahommedans, natives of this Principality, and who had quitted it during the late war, actually resident in Macedonia and in other provinces of the Ottoman Empire, were, or might be, desirous to return home, requested the Sublime Porte to furnish him with a list of such, at the same time indicating the measures which would be taken within the Principality itself for the redintegration of the immigrants in their property, and so forth.

For three months the Porte made no reply to His Highness' application, nor took any measures in accordance with it.

About the middle of October a considerable number of immigrants of no certain destination began, with no previous notice, flowing in from Macedonia, and spread

themselves about the western districts of the Principality. Robberies and murders ensued, and the disturbance was becoming general, when His Highness gave orders that the frontier line should be closed against further immigration of the sort during the winter.

Last week the Sublime Porte sent answer to the communication made three months previously by His Highness the Prince. This answer was a demand for the immediate readmission into the Principality of 17,860 immigrants. No lists were given, only the gross numbers, with a vague classification according to the districts of Sehr, Loftcha, and Tirnovo, to which they were said to belong.

As, however, these districts, like the greater part of the Principality, are now deep in snow, and will in all probability remain so, the winter having set in with even more than ordinary severity, for at least three months to come, during which time neither lodging nor occupation of any sort can possibly be provided for the proposed immigrants, who would necessarily perish of cold and want, His Highness has, with much regret, had to request that the immigration may be deferred till the spring, when, as in the former summer, he can have in readiness the means of housing and giving occupation to all properly attested immigrants, returning in orderly succession; not cast pell-mell a confused multitude upon the land.

It is certain that the immigration now demanded by the Sublime Porte, and which His Highness the Prince himself requested might take place during the summer, would, if complied with in the winter months, cause the death of the immigrants themselves, and probably, by the communication of disease, of the surrounding population. The movement cannot be made before the spring—an unfortunate delay, for which the want of attention to His Highness' request of August last in due time is responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 77.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord,

Sophia, November 25, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Palgrave's despatch No. 220 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a Circular note addressed by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the different Diplomatic Agents in this capital with reference to the opposition alleged by the Sublime Porte to have been offered by the Bulgarian Government to the return of Mussulman refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 77.

M. Balabanoff to Mr. Palgrave.

Sophia, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Novembre, 1879.

M. l'Agent,

PAR une *note verbale* adressée vers la fin du mois d'Octobre (v.s.) à notre Agent à Constantinople, et arrivée au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères le $\frac{6}{18}$ Novembre année courante, la Sublime Porte lui fait savoir qu'un certain nombre d'émigrés Musulmans, originaires de différentes localités de la Principauté, sont sur le point d'être renvoyés dans leur pays par la voie de la Roumélie Orientale. Une liste de ces émigrés dont le chiffre s'élève à près de 18,000 est jointe à la note en question.

La rentrée dans le pays des émigrés Musulmans n'a été entravée en aucune façon par les autorités du pays. Non-seulement elles n'ont pas suscité des difficultés au rapatriement des émigrés, mais elles ont cherché à aplanir celles qui se présentaient, n'exigeant pas même dans bien des cas la présentation de passeports ou de documents quelconques. Le Gouvernement Princier a fait plus encore: la rentrée d'un grand nombre d'émigrés ayant été signalée par un télégramme du $\frac{1}{13}$ Août du Premier Ministre Ottoman au Prince de Bulgarie, je me suis empressé, d'ordre de Son Altesse, de demander à la Sublime Porte une liste des émigrés qui demandaient à entrer, ainsi qu'une indication précise des lieux de leur provenance. Les renseignements étaient indispensables afin de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour préparer l'installation des émigrés et leur épargner les privations de tout genre

auxquelles ils auraient été exposés, rentrant pendant la mauvaise saison dans des localités où ils n'auraient trouvé ni abri ni nourriture. La réponse ne nous est parvenue qu'il y a peu de jours dans la note que j'ai mentionné plus haut.

En attendant, le Gouvernement Princier, fidèle à la ligne de conduite qu'il s'était tracé, a laissé rentrer les émigrés qui affluaient de toute part, faisant son possible pour faciliter leur réintégration dans leurs foyers. Cet ordre de choses s'est prolongé pendant les mois d'Aout et de Septembre. Toutefois, lorsque les pluies et les froids ont commencé, voyant que le flot des émigrés ne faisait qu'augmenter, le Gouvernement s'est vu obligé de l'arrêter et de fermer la frontière, ne voulant pas assumer la responsabilité des souffrances que devraient nécessairement endurer des gens arrivant au milieu de la mauvaise saison dans un état de dénuement complet, et dans de localités où rien n'est préparé pour les recevoir. Vous avez vu vous-même, M. l'Agent, de ces infortunés qui traversaient la capitale se dirigeant vers les Balcans pour regagner les villages dans le nord de la Principauté.

Les choses en étaient là, lorsque notre Agent à Constantinople nous a communiqué la demande de la Sublime Porte de laisser rentrer 18,000 Musulmans.

Par des motifs d'humanité dont vous reconnaîtrez sans doute la valeur, le Gouvernement Princier se voit dans l'impossibilité de consentir actuellement au retour d'un nombre si considérable d'émigrés, qui seraient décimés par le froid et la faim aussi bien que par les maladies qui en deviendraient la conséquence inévitable. Nous sommes obligés d'adopter cette ligne de conduite tant dans l'intérêt même des émigrés que pour sauvegarder le bon ordre et la tranquillité dans le pays et même la santé publique.

Tous ces malentendus auraient pu être évités et bien des souffrances auraient été épargnées aux émigrés, si l'on nous avait fourni à temps les renseignements que nous avons demandés. Nous croyons d'autant plus devoir insister sur l'envoi préalable des listes détaillées des émigrés qu'il a été constaté qu'il s'en était trouvé un assez grand nombre parmi ceux qui sont déjà entrés en Bulgarie qui n'étaient pas originaires de la Principauté.

J'ai cru, M. l'Agent, devoir vous communiquer en détail les négociations qui ont eu lieu entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Princier au sujet du retour des émigrés, en vous priant de les porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, afin de prévenir toute interprétation malveillante de la décision qui vient d'être prise de refuser 18,000 émigrés, dont le retour nous est signalé, l'accès de la Principauté, tant que durera la mauvaise saison et jusqu'à ce qu'on ait vérifié l'exactitude de leurs déclarations quant aux lieux de leur provenance.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. BALABANOFF.

No. 78.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 379.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, November 24, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 332 of the 2nd instant, I gather from the Russian and Bulgarian journals that Captain Eck has been permanently attached in a military capacity to the Russian Consulate-General in this province.

He is in frequent communication with General Strecker, who speaks very highly of him as a young officer of no political bias, and well acquainted with military duties and the importance of discipline.

It is no doubt intended that Captain Eck should assist General Strecker in controlling the Russian officers who are in the service of the Sultan in this province, and whose present number the Russian Government appears anxious to maintain.

This is indeed apparent from the fact that, when, on a somewhat recent occasion, General Strecker evinced a desire to dismiss three Russian officers for gross misconduct, he only succeeded in obtaining their removal by accepting, in their stead, three officers of the same nationality, who were summoned to Philippopoli by General Doubonin, the predecessor of Captain Eck at the Russian Consulate-General.

It is also to be expected that the new Military Attaché will afford valuable assistance in the transformation of the Gymnastic Societies into bans and reserve of the militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 79.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 380. Most Confidential.)

Philippopoli, November 25, 1879.

My Lord,

AS it is the policy of Aleko Pasha and his supporters to represent that the accounts which reach some of the Governments of Europe respecting the condition of the Turkish refugees in this province are exaggerated, even when not based on deceptive statements, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship an abstract of a Report addressed on the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ ultimo to the Governor-General by M. Schmidt, a member of his own Privy Council, on the subject of the treatment of Mussulman refugees, almost under the very eyes of the Central Administration, in the neighbouring district of Karadja-Dagh.

M. Schmidt had addressed a previous Report to the Governor-General after an excursion which he made on my invitation to a village in the same district and in which he found all the Turkish houses cut in half and their materials employed by the Bulgarian villagers in constructing houses for themselves in the fields and vineyards of the Turkish proprietors.

On the present occasion M. Schmidt had been induced to revisit the district in consequence of a demand made by the President of the Refugee Repatriation Commission for a grant of £ T. 992 in aid of the Bulgarian inhabitants of the village of Kotchmarlar, and who, according to information previously obtained by M. Schmidt, had already rebuilt their houses out of materials procured from the destruction of neighbouring Turkish villages.

The report shows that M. Schmidt's information was perfectly correct. The village of Kotchmarlar had been almost entirely rebuilt with materials derived from three Turkish villages that had been demolished during the last few months, after the return of the Turkish proprietors.

M. Schmidt describes the condition in which he found the villages that had been devastated by the Christian inhabitants of Kotchmarlar, who, he states, are very excited and hostile towards their Mussulman compatriots.

Among other Turkish villages which M. Schmidt found in ruins he mentions that of Mouslouhdjali, in which not a single house had been left whole by its temporary Christian occupants, who had used the materials in the construction of dwellings in the fields and gardens of that Mussulman village, notwithstanding the many petitions which the Turkish proprietors had presented to the authorities at Philippopolis, complaining of the demolition of their houses.

It appears from M. Schmidt's Report that, while out of the fifty-four villages contained in the Karadja-Dagh district, only four Christian villages had been destroyed during the late insurrection, no fewer than twenty-two Turkish villages and three Turkish quarters in Christian villages had been entirely demolished after the entry of the Russian troops into the province; and that during the past summer, five other Turkish villages had been similarly destroyed, including Kydatchyk, in which the houses had been cut in half.

The facts cited by M. Schmidt fully confirm his opinion that the local authorities are more culpable in this matter than the Bulgarian villagers, who "seeing the inaction and indulgence of the authorities, thought they might act with impunity."

In this respect, therefore, the evidence of the Director of Finance supports the statements made by the Russian correspondent of the "Golos," to the effect that the local authorities have been guilty of passiveness, if not of connivance, in the matter of a wholesale destruction of Turkish property in this province, since the return of the Turkish refugees during the course of last summer.

M. Schmidt also calls attention to the necessity of settling the liabilities of the Bulgarian villagers towards the Mussulman proprietors of the lands which the former have tilled, as well as to the urgent need of stationing gendarmes for the protection of villages occupied wholly or in part by Mussulmans.

I regret to add that no action has yet been taken on M. Schmidt's Report, but on the contrary, before leaving Philippopoli Aleko Pasha verbally instructed the President of the Repatriation Commission to draw up a counter Report proving that all M. Schmidt's statements are either false or exaggerated.

It was only on learning this fact, a few days ago, from a Greek member of the Préfecture, who had been called upon to join in drawing up the answer desired by the Governor-General, that I obtained confidential communication of M. Schmidt's Report, on condition of its not being made public.

I had refrained from asking for it earlier from motives of delicacy, although I knew that it had passed through the hands of the Russian Consul-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Abstract of a Report made to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia by M. Schmidt, Director of Finance, on the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ October, 1879.

ACCOMPANIED by the President of the Refugee Commission, and by the Secretary of the Préfecture, M. Schmidt proceeded to the Karadja-Dagh district on the $\frac{22nd\ September}{5th\ October}$, 1879.

Passing through the Turkish village of Kouroudjolou, entirely destroyed after the late war, they reached the Mussulman village of Salihli, composed of ninety-six houses, nearly all well preserved, having been inhabited by Christians of the village of Adjar, destroyed during the late events. The Mussulman proprietors have nearly all returned, and have taken possession of part of their houses. About thirty-five Christian families alone remain, the others having left, objecting to return on account of the village being situated in the mountains with no arable land. The village had principally been engaged in industry and trade.

The Mussulmans willingly consented to the Christians passing the winter in the village. They complained that the Christians had not given them their full share of the crops, having received only 707 out of 1,925 kilés.

Although possessing a great deal of land, the Mussulmans were entirely destitute of everything. They had not even a single pair of bullocks. They asked that a gendarme should be stationed in their village.

A few days before two stacks of straw belonging to a Turk had been burnt in a court-yard inhabited by Christians.

M. Schmidt then went to Kydrchyk, on which he had previously made a report to the Governor-General.

The Bulgarians now pretended that the Mussulmans had given them permission to carry away one-half of each house, and they brought forward a Mussulman witness, who affirmed that such an arrangement had been made at Philippopoli. The other Turks denied this, and proved that the witness had no property in the village, and was entirely at the mercy of the Christians of the village, which he had never left.

Moreover, this was in contradiction with previous statements to the effect that two Turks had consented to allow one-half of each house to be carried away.

The Turks had in reality only agreed to share their houses with the Christians.

M. Schmidt endeavoured to effect an arrangement between the parties. He offered to give the Turks £ T. 300 as an indemnity, and to enable them to buy bullocks.

The Baïli stated that the destruction of the villages had commenced before his appointment, i.e., before the 4th July last, and that he had been told that the Turks had consented to it. He had been satisfied with that declaration. The share of crops had been surrendered to the Turks, but with certain difficulties. The Turks complained that they had not been able to obtain a declaration ("chedanamé") of the quantity of corn which was owed to them, and that the Christians were delaying the settlement in order to exercise a certain amount of pressure upon them.

The Turks asked for a gendarme, in order to enable their families to return to the village.

M. Schmidt next visited Kourou-Hamidly, a purely Mussulman village, which had been composed of 95 houses, inhabited by 134 families. It had been occupied during the war by the inhabitants of Kotchmarlar, a village destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks, with the assistance of the inhabitants of Kourou-Hamidly.

The Mussulman inhabitants of Kouron-Hamidly had partly returned in September 1879, while a Russian detachment was there. Their property was not given up to them, but they were allowed to lodge in the garrets and stables of their houses. When the Russian detachment left, the Turks, according to their own account, were ill-treated, beaten, and menaced by the bayonets of the Gymastic Societies.

A girl had been violated by a Bulgarian, who, according to the Christians, was imprisoned for two months, and is now out of his mind.

On account of their alleged ill-treatment, and out of fear, the Turks left their village again towards Easter 1879.

Some weeks after they learned that the Bulgarians were destroying their village, and were carting away the materials to Kotchmarlar for the construction of houses. The village, which had been intact in May, is now only a heap of ruins.

The Turks were now afraid to return to their ruined village unless two gendarmes were stationed in it for their protection.

They had received but very little on account of the crops owed to them.

The Christian village of Kotchmarlar had been inhabited before the war by 240 families. After the arrival of the Russians, 130 families installed themselves at Kourou-Hamidly, 35 to 40 at Ishak-Faki, a similar number at Karadja-Anhat. The three latter purely Mussulman villages had been abandoned by the Turkish proprietors.

Kotchmarlar is now almost entirely rebuilt with materials obtained from the destruction of those three Mussulman villages, which the Christians said they had left four months previously.*

The Christians of Kotchmarlar are much excited at the return of the Turks. A dozen widows presented themselves and inveighed against the Mussulmans, and asked for Government aid.

The male inhabitants likewise manifested very hostile sentiments towards their Mussulman compatriots.

Their emotion was perhaps increased by a consciousness of the wrong they had committed in destroying Turkish villages after the return of their proprietors.

M. Schmidt met in the village two militiamen of the Drougina of Karlovo.

The President of the Repatriation Commission and the Councillor of the Prefecture told him they were on leave of absence, for the purpose of seeing their relatives.

M. Schmidt regrets to say that those two functionaries made a false statement in this respect, as the two soldiers were in the village for the purpose of exercising the Gymnastic Society.

Considering the existing excitement of the villagers, M. Schmidt thinks it would be better if the Government replaced the instructors by two gendarmes.

He then proceeded to Ishak Faki, a purely Mussulman village, once composed of twenty-five houses, inhabited by sixty families.

Only three persons had returned to the village, but had again left in the month of April.

According to the statement of a charcoal-burner, the only inhabitant who had saved his house, the destruction of the village had commenced in August last, and had continued until recently.

The Bailli said the destruction must have commenced earlier, and that it had been impossible for him to prevent the carrying away of the materials of the destroyed houses, owing to the insufficiency of the number of gendarmes.

M. Schmidt does not think this excuse can be admitted. Evidence of the destruction was to be found in the village of Kotchmarlar.

It would have sufficed to put one of the inhabitants into prison in order to prevent the others from continuing the destruction of Turkish villages. That destruction was continued because the Christians, seeing the inaction and indulgence of the authorities, thought they might act with impunity.

He found in this deserted village ten Tartar families who had been established fifteen years ago in the Christian village of Tunkoï (Rijowo-Konare).

The inhabitants of the latter had refused to accept them, and the President of the Repatriation Commission said that in the instructions which he had received the return of Tartars, as well as Circassians, had been prohibited.

M. Schmidt explains that this must be an error.

The Tartars stated that they had left 40 dennums of land sowed, but that the ten families had only received 5 kilés of corn from the inhabitants of Funkoi. He also visited the Turkish village of Karadja Anhad, likewise destroyed by the inhabitants of Kotchmarlar, and now quite deserted.

Crossing the Karadja-Dagh, he reached Souilchouk, the Christian inhabitants of which had established themselves in the villages of Kydrochyk and Muslotchali. A few houses are still intact, but only one inhabited. Before the war the villages had sixty (?) houses, of which fifteen were Mussulman.

The Christian quarter with the church had been destroyed (excepting the few houses left) by Bashi-Bazouks before the war, and the Turkish quarter had been destroyed by Christians.

* The President of the Repatriation Committee had applied for a grant of £T. 999 in aid of the village of Kotchmarlar, out of the fund of £T. 15,000 assigned in favour of Christians who evacuated Turkish villages.

The Christian inhabitants do not wish to return to the village, because it is built on a rock, and has no water.

A quarter of an hour above Souilchouk is situated the Mussulman village of Mouslout-chali. Before the war it had fifty-three houses inhabited by ninety-six families.

The day before the visit of M. Schmidt, twenty-five families had returned. The village, which appeared to have been at one time flourishing, was occupied by Christians from Souilchouk and Adjar. All the houses were intact when the Christians took possession of the village after the flight of the Mussulmans.

The Turkish proprietors had been at Philippopoli since last winter. They state that they were not allowed to return to their village. Towards the month of June (they could not give a more precise date) they heard that the Christians had begun to demolish their houses. They complained of this to the authorities at Philippopoli, who sent for the head men of the Christians in occupation of the village. The Turks said they were then assured that the news was not correct, and that the authorities took the formal engagement of the Christians to leave the houses intact. A few weeks later the Turks again heard that the destruction of their houses was being continued, and they renewed their petitions, of which they presented five, six, and more.

Hearing that, notwithstanding the steps they had then taken, their houses were being destroyed in order to construct new houses with the materials, in their own gardens and fields, the Turks applied to the Sublime Porte.

At present the Turkish village of Mousloutchali affords a melancholy spectacle.

At Kydrtchyk a certain spirit of equity and communism was apparent. Half of the destroyed houses had remained habitable. At Kourou Hamidly, Ishak Faki, Karadja Anhat, the walls of the houses had been left standing.

At Mousloutchali, on the contrary, the greater part of the houses had been almost entirely destroyed. Not a single one had been left whole. The Christians had built new dwellings with the materials of the Turkish houses, in the fields and gardens of the village. Rose gardens had been devastated.

The Bailli said he had only once passed through the village, and that it was then in its present state of devastation. He had prohibited its destruction. But M. Schmidt found that all the inhabitants were still engaged in building new houses with the materials of Turkish dwellings. No gendarme had been stationed in the village.

The Secretary of the Préfecture gave temporary orders to the effect that some of the new houses should be ceded to the Turkish families which had no shelter, their houses having been razed to the ground.

The Bailli promised to superintend the operation, and, at the request of the Turks, ordered a gendarme to be stationed there.

He pleaded the want of gendarmes as one of his excuses.

In the whole canton in which there are 54 villages, there are only 22 gendarmes. Out of the 54 villages of the Karadja-Dagh, 4 Christian villages were destroyed during the insurrection, viz.:—

1. Adjar; 700 houses, of which 120 remain;
2. Rahmanli; also a considerable village;
3. Kotchmarlar;
4. Souilchouk.

After the entry of the Russians into the province, 22 Turkish villages and 3 Turkish quarters in Christian villages were completely demolished, and "during the last summer five other Turkish villages, including Kyrdschyk, had been destroyed."

M. Schmidt quotes these figures from memory, from statements made by the Bailli.

The Mussulmans who return to the district build huts ("kolibas"), but they are in want of everything—cattle and seed. They support themselves for the present with the share of the produce of their fields owed them by the Christians, but this source will soon fail them.

M. Schmidt concludes by recommending the adoption of the following measures:—

1. To allow the Christians to inhabit during the winter the houses which they have constructed out of the materials of Turkish houses, ceding to the Mussulmans as many houses as may be necessary in order to shelter them during the inclement season. The Christians should also assist the Turks in building huts ("kolibas") or in repairing houses which can be rendered habitable.

2. The Christians who have destroyed Turkish houses are very guilty, but their punishment would not improve the situation.

It appears to M. Schmidt that those who are most culpable are the authorities to which the administration of the district had been confided. It is necessary to institute an

inquiry in order to ascertain whether the Moukhtars, and more especially the gendarmes, whose duties must have called them to the destroyed villages, had made proper reports thereon, whether those reports had reached the Bailli, and whether the latter had transmitted the same to the Prefect.

3. A source of misunderstanding between the Christians and Mussulmans, and one of the causes of the grievances of the latter consists in the non-surrender of the share of the corn reaped by Christians on Mussulman fields. Registers exist in all the villages in which such liabilities are inscribed, and they are kept with tolerable regularity.

Copies of those registers are not given to the Turks, and it thus happens that the latter often lay claim, with or without reason, to a larger quantity than that which the Christians acknowledge to owe.

The Turks complained everywhere that the surrender of the corn due to them was accompanied by difficulties, and they asked for an acknowledgment of the amount due to them. In order to avoid ulterior differences and law suits, it is desirable to summon the parties before the Bailli in order to determine finally the liabilities and debts in produce.

M. Schmidt thinks the parties would easily come to an understanding, and that the Bailli would only have to register the deeds ("cheidetnamé") which the Turks desire to have in hand.

4. The number of gendarmes in the canton of Karadja-Dagh ought to be increased.

It is desirable that for a certain time each Turkish village should have one gendarme stationed in it, and the mixed villages two. In conformity with the Organic Statute, it is necessary that the gendarmes should be chosen among Mahommedans as well as among Christians.

Notwithstanding the great number of Mussulmans in the Karadja-Dagh, there is not a single Mussulman gendarme among the twenty-two actually employed.

The Turks do not demand gendarmes of their own nationality; they are in general satisfied with the Christian gendarmes.

No. 80.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 381.)

Philippopoli, November 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of petitions from Turkish refugees in this neighbourhood, complaining of ill-treatment by Bulgarians, and of the insufficiency of the bread rations issued by the Turkish Relief Commissioners.

As regards the latter complaint, I am bound to say that Chefket Bey appears to perform his duty zealously and conscientiously, and if the rations which he issues are small, it is on account of the smallness of the sum which he is allowed to spend in relieving a large and increasing number of applicants for relief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Petition from Turks of Philippopoli.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

IL a été accordé par le Trésor Impérial une somme de pour être distribuée en pain aux émigrés qui se trouvent dans notre ville.

Cependant le nombre des émigrés s'augmentent de jour en jour et cette somme devient insuffisante. Nous avons porté à la connaissance du Gouvernement Impérial l'insuffisance de cette somme ainsi que l'état pitoyable de ces misérables émigrés. Sur cela Sa Majesté Impériale, le Sultan a daigné nommer M. le Colonel Chefket Bey, Attaché à la Musique Impériale pour présider ici cette question par une Commission Spéciale et voir l'affaire; sur cela il a été distribué pour le mois passé selon le nombre des émigrés qui se trouvent ici une ration de pain, de 2,600 okes par jour, quoique cette distribution était insuffisante, vu le grand nombre de réfugiés; cependant le nommé Hadji Moustapha Effendi qui a été envoyé de Constantinople comme membre de la Commission des Réfugiés, il a

jugé convenable de diminuer 1,200 okes de pains, sur cela la plupart de ces émigrés restent sans nourriture, mourant de faim.

Non content encore de cette mesure indigne qu'il s'est permis de prendre, il a proposé encore tout dernièrement de faire une seconde réduction de 1,400 okes et ne plus fournir de rations aux malheureux réfugiés; sur nos prières à Chefket Bey cette dernière réduction n'a pas eu lieu; par suite de la première réduction plusieurs de ces émigrés se trouvent sans pain, comme quelques-uns demeurent dans des baraques abîmées et plusieurs dans des endroits sans toits, et sans fenêtres, presque dans les rues, sans habits et sans couverture, sans charbon et sans bois; si cela continue encore ils mourront de froid.

Vu la critique position de ces malheureux, nous espérons, M. le Consul-Général, vu votre humanité envers ces misérables que vous ouvrirez une souscription que vous jugerez à propos pour que ces malheureux puissent vivre et habiter au moins pendant cet hiver et ne pas les laisser mourir de faim et du froid.

En attendant, M. le Consul-Général, la juste décision que vous jugerez prendre à ce sujet, veuillez, &c.

(Suivent les cachets de 238 habitants de Philippopoli.)

Le ⅓ Novembre, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Petition from Turk of Keouzou-Hamanly.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

JE soussigné, habitant du village de Kouzou-Hamanle, district de Gueubsuyou, relevant du département de Philippopoli, m'empresse d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Il y a douze mois, j'étais envoyé par la Commission des Réfugiés avec nos voisins émigrés pour m'installer dans mon village.

Après avoir passé tranquillement pendant un mois, un soir, pendant que je me trouvais chez moi, le frère du chef Cantonnier du village de Kodjmarlar, le nommé Dimitri, avec son complice, nommé Hantcho, ont pénétré dans ma maison, et, après m'avoir battu et lié les mains, malgré mes cris, ils ont volée £T. 7 avec les 10 (roubié) que j'avais sur moi, et ont pris la fuite.

Après leur départ je me suis empressé de me rendre à Philippopoli pour porter plainte à l'autorité centrale, et faire arrêter les personnes sus-indiquées, et me faire obtenir la justice; cependant, à mon grand regret, aucune suite n'a été donnée à cette affaire.

Je viens donc réitérer auprès de votre Excellence mes plaintes en vous suppliant respectueusement de vouloir bien faire arrêter ces gens, et me faire restituer les sommes indiquées ci-dessus, et leur faire subir les conséquences de leurs atrocités, selon la loi. En attendant une réponse satisfaisante, veuillez, &c.

La femme de Sadek,
(Signé) NEFISSÉ.

Le 8 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 80.

Petition from Turks of Kourou-Hamidli.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

JE soussigné, habitant le village de Korou-Hamidlé. Il y a déjà un mois, accompagné de plusieurs émigrés de mon village, nous sommes partis pour nous installer. Un jour, le nommé Saher Dédjo Oglou Youvan, et accompagnée de Kaprayo et Stoyan, et quelques autres Bulgares, ont pénetré chez moi en cassant la porte à coup de haches. Après m'avoir fait subir des souffrances atroces, ils ont pris la fuite après avoir volé tout ce que j'avais, selon la liste que vous trouverez ci-jointe. J'ai porté ce fait à la connaissance de l'autorité, et j'ai appris à ma grande satisfaction que ces malfaiteurs étaient arrêtés et amenés à Carlova. On a trouvé aussi intact ce qui nous avait été volé.

Les objets volés restent à l'autorité de Carlova; cependant jusqu'à ce jour on ne m'a rien restitué; comme j'étais maltraité continuellement par nos villageois Bulgares, et vu l'impossibilité de vivre avec ces gens, j'ai pris mon parti de retourner à Philippopoli.

Je vous prie donc, Excellence, de vouloir bien me faire justice, en me faisant restituer ce qui m'a été volé.

En attendant une réponse favorable, veuillez, &c.

Du village de Kourou-Hamidli,
(Signé) BEKIR OGLOU HASSAN.

Le 7 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Liste des Objets volés par les Bulgares.

Roubié altoun	pièces 60
Yéghermilik altoun	„ 20
Gumuche akdjé	„ 50
Tapis	.. 2
Pelisse	.. 1
Chemises	.. 2
Morceau de cuivre	.. 1

Inclosure 4 in No. 80.

Petition from Turks of Ouzoun-Cara.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Ouzoun-Cara, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Il y a déjà quatre jours que selon les ordres de la Commission des Réfugiés nous avons été à notre village pour construire nos baraques et réclamer nos récoltes de l'année passée, suivant les ordres donnés à cet effet à nos villageois Bulgares. Cependant à notre arrivée au village, après qu'ils nous ont traités d'une manière indigne, le même soir, à 1 heure à la Turque de la nuit, on a arrêté les nommés Hassan Oglou Youssouf, Hassa Oglou Osman, et Mehmed Oglou Hassan, et quelques autres encore, et ces malheureux ont été battus par les Bulgares d'une manière extraordinaire. Après, ils ont pris le nommé Hussein Oglou Youssouf, et l'ont amené dans le magasin du nommé Baldji Nata, et là ils l'ont fouillé, lui disant qu'il avait de l'argent sur lui ; cependant ils n'ont rien trouvé.

En outre, parmi nos villageois Bulgares les nommés Kété Oglou Tana, Dachkala, Baldji Nata, Betchakses Mita, Betchakses Rayko, Tersi Estano, and Tchorbadji Bachke, nous ont battus et maltraités, en nous disant qu'il ne nous accepteraient pas ici, et que nous n'ayions absolument rien ici qui nous appartienne, et que si nous restions ici ils nous traiteraient toujours ainsi ; et encore ils nous ont affirmé qu'ils avaient à recevoir de nous. De plusieurs parmis nous ils ont pris par force des bons.

En portant cette conduite à la connaissance de votre Excellence, nous espérons que vous nous ferez obtenir justice en invitant ces gens à l'ordre.

(Signé) MOUSSI OGLOU HASSAN.
IBRAHIM OGLOU ETHEM.
HASSAN OGLOU MEHMED.
MEHMED OGLOU HASSAN.
HASSAN OGLOU OSMAN.
HASSAN OGLOU YOUSSOUF.

Le 6 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

No. 81.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 382.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 25, 1879.*

PRINCE TZERETELEW, the Russian Consul-General, has this day left Philippopoli on four months' leave of absence.

The affairs of the Consulate-General have been intrusted to its Secretary, M. Isvolski.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 82.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 383.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Captain Kosteleff, of the Imperial Russian Guards, hitherto Police Master at Bourgas, has been appointed Police Master at Philippopoli, *vice* Captain Raïkovitch, a Servian officer in the provincial militia, who is at present being tried by a military Tribunal for alleged irregularities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 83.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 384.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 26, 1879.*

The Bulgarian Exarch spoke to me some days ago about the condition of his Church in Macedonia.

He stated that the number of Bulgarians who now acknowledge the Exarchate, or were ready to do so, exceeded 400,000, and that except along the shore of the Ægean, between Serres and Kavala, the proportion of Orthodox Christians, who recognised the Exarchate was eight out of nine, whereas in Thrace the relative proportion between the adherents of the Patriarchate and the Exarchate was four to one, the Bulgarians being in the minority.

The large flock of the Exarchate in Macedonia was at present without any Bishops. Out of three Bishops who had been appointed under the Firman of 1868, one had died, and the rest had been sent away at the commencement of the late war. Only a few Vicars remained.

Meanwhile the Ottoman authorities were favouring the Greek Church, in order to abolish, so far as possible, the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Exarchate in Macedonia.

In these circumstances the Exarch was being urged by his conscience, by the counsels of his clergy, and by a consideration of the sufferings of his flock at the hands of Turks and Greeks, to repair to Constantinople for the purpose of negotiating with the Porte the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops, both in the districts in which a census had been taken under the Firman of 1868 (six Bishoprics), and in those in which the adherents of the Bulgarian Church had not yet been enumerated (eight or ten Bishoprics).

His Beatitude argued that it was no longer necessary to subject the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops to the results of a census in accordance with the provisions of the Firman of 1868, since the Patriarchate had ceased to recognize the Exarchate as Orthodox.

The appointment of Bulgarian Bishops had been made subordinate to the results of such an inquiry, in order to avoid the double jurisdiction of two Orthodox Churches which were at that time in communion, but which have now separated, with very little prospects of ultimate reunion. In the opinion of the Exarch, Bishops of both Churches might preside over the same districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 84.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 385.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 26, 1879.*

THE inclosed article published this day in the "Philippopolis" probably reflects the despair of the Greek minority in this province at the success which Aleko Pasha is reported to have met, under Russian auspices, at Constantinople.

It points out that as a consequence of the late war, and of the Russian military occupation, the Bulgarian majority in this province has striven to infringe the right of the

minorities and by following exclusively the advice of one of the Great Powers to form a small Slav State more expeditiously and effectively than under the facilities which had been afforded by the Treaty of San Stefano.

The "Philippoupolis," however, warns the Bulgarians that they will still have to settle accounts with Europe, which had no intention at Berlin of creating a Slav State in Eastern Roumelia, "but a neutral zone destined by its international character to confine, by means of the line of the Balkans, the Bulgarian nation within its natural limits, in order to prevent the extension of Panslavism and Russian influence in the south, as far as the shores of the Ægean."

The Greek organ says that the apparent success of the Bulgarians has so far turned their heads that they have forgotten the very existence of Europe.

They have thrown themselves "into the arms of Russia, thinking that, after the Almighty, it is that Power alone which governs the terrestrial globe, and decides at its pleasure the destinies of nations."

While acknowledging, in conclusion, that the transmutation of the Gymnastic Societies has been effected with considerable skill, the article asserts that Europe, which is not to be easily deceived, must see that at a time "when the Eastern question is becoming daily more complicated, the Decree of the Governor-General is in reality intended to form in this international province, destined to serve as a rampart against Slavism, an army of 60,000 to 70,000 men belonging exclusively to that nationality (Slav race), which cannot do otherwise than allow itself to be carried away by Russian influence."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 85.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 386.) *Philippopoli, November* 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of an article from the "Narodni Glass" or "National Voice," a radical Bulgarian organ published in this town, on the subject of the transformation of the Gymnastic Societies into bands and reserves of the militia.

Your Lordship will observe in that article a frank acknowledgment of the real object with which those societies were instituted by General Stolipine, as well as an equal amount of frankness in respect to the manner in which it is intended that the reformed Gymnastic Societies should in future be utilised.

The "National Voice" of the Bulgarian party states that although the present Administration of the province enjoys its "full confidence," yet that it is necessary to have a "national organization" in order to keep vigilant watch for that party, the Gymnastic Societies having hitherto been the only guarantee for the preservation of rights which, although insufficient in some respects, afford nevertheless the possibility of preparing "for the conquest of complete liberation and of union with a free Bulgaria."

It is suggested that, on the appearance of danger to those rights and to the existence of the province (as a Bulgarian country) the signal for battle should be given by the "national organization," together with the watchword that would cause the Gymnasts, whatever their form, to rise when wanted as one man, in order to fulfil their mission.

I need not observe that the national organization, to which allusion is here made, already exists in the form of Secret Committees which practically rule the province under the administration of Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 86.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 387.) *Philippopoli, November* 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship translations of complaints that have been brought to me within the last few days by Turkish peasants from the immediate vicinity of Philoppopoli.

They refer mostly to the destitution which they suffer, owing principally to their share of last year's crops being withheld from them; but in one case some Turkish refugees, who have returned to the ruins of their former homes, situated at a distance of about 18 miles from the seat of Government, represent that even the miserable huts which they have constructed are being burned down by their Bulgarian neighbours; while, in another case, the petitioner represents that his mother has died from the effect of blows received on one of the occasions on which some Bulgarian fellow-villagers entered his house at night for the purpose of robbing and outraging its inmates.

All the petitions, of which the inclosed are in reality duplicates, have been lodged at the konak, and in cases in which the petitioners have alleged that they have been refused admittance I have caused them to be accompanied by a cavass, whose escort ensures their reception by the proper authorities.

I regret that it is not in my power to assist in a more efficacious manner these victims of ill-government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Petition from a Turk of Hamdiyeli.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

JE soussigné, habitant du village de Corou Hamdujéli, district de Carlova, relevant du département de Philippopoli; ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Il y a déjà quatorze mois que je me suis rendu avec ma famille pour m'installer dans mon village.

Un soir le nommé Youvan Oglou Youso, habitant Bulgare de notre village, accompagné de quelques complices, il a penétré dans la nuit chez moi après s'être conduit envers ma famille d'une manière si scandaleuse que je n'ose pas décrire ici, ils nous ont battus tous. Le susdit Youso a pris par force de ma pauvre mère l'argent qu'elle possédait et dont je remets ci-joint la liste; non content de cela il a recommencé de battre de nouveau ma pauvre mère, qui, après une souffrance de vingt jours, est morte à la suite de ses blessures.

Un mois après cette atrocité, un soir, le nommé Saher Détcho Oglou Youvan, accompagné de quelques autres Bulgares, a pénétré chez moi. Après nous avoir maltraité et battu, ces malfaiteurs ont voulu me forcer de leur montrer mon argent. Comme ils n'ont pu rien trouver ils ont volés les objets dont je vous remets ci-joint la liste et ont pris la fuite. J'ai porté mes plaintes à l'autorité de Carlova, et après des recherches ils ont trouvé et arrêté le coupable et les effets volés, lesquels se trouvent actuellement à l'autorité de Carlova; cependant le coupable a été mis aux arrêts; mais on lui a donné sa liberté après quelques jours.

Comme il m'a été impossible de vivre là-bas, j'étais obligé de retourner à Philippopoli. Le nommé Yousso étant soldat dans la milice, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien le faire arrêter de suite et me faire restituer l'argent qu'il m'a volé, en lui faisant subir les peines prescrites par la loi, ainsi que de me faire restituer mes effets volés. En attendant bien impatiemment un résultat favorable, veuillez, &c.

Habitant du village de Corou Hamdujéli,
(Signé) IBRAHIM OGLOU MOUSTAFA.

Ce 7 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

LISTE de l'Argent volé par Youvan Oglou Youso.

Livres or (mahmoudié)	..	..	..	..	..	20
,, (de 20 piastres)	..	..	..	..	..	10

Effets volés par Saher Detcho Oglou Youvan.

Tapis	1
Chemises	2
Manteau pour hiver	1
Robe de chambre	1
Robes pour femme	2
Paquets turbans	2
Brasiers (mangal) en cuivre	4

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Azizié.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village d'Azizié, district de Caradja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous composons une trentaine de maisons, Musulmans, ouvriers cultivateurs ; les récoltes de nos champs cultivés que nous avons laissés l'année passée ont été prises par les Bulgares du village de Virdjova Yun.

Il y a déjà deux mois, nous avons adressée une demande à la Commission des Réfugiés pour réclamer nos récoltes des villageois de Virdjova Yun ; sur cela il nous a été livré pour chaque maison un kilé de blé (deux chenik) et les villageois nous ont répondu que "Vous n'avez plus rien ici ; ni terrain, ni récoltes, ni propriétés."

Nous étions obligés de retourner à Philippopoli, où nous nous trouvons actuellement dans les rues, sans pain et sans abri. Nos familles pleurent et soupirent à cause du manque de nourriture et de baraques.

Nous prions humblement votre Excellence de vouloir bien venir à notre aide, car nous n'avons plus le courage de supporter de telles misères. En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

Les villageois de l'Azizié,
(Signé) ABDOULLAH.
HAYROULLAH.
MEHMED.

Le 7 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Hemitli-Kébir.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Hemitli-Kébir, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nos récoltes de l'année passée ont été enlevées et détruites par les villageois Bulgares. Selon les ordres de l'autorité et nous basant sur des droits incontestables, nous avons réclamé la moitié de nos récoltes. A cela les villageois Bulgares nous ont répondu que si tous les réfugiés Musulmans habitants de notre village retournent dans leurs foyers nous leur donnerons les récoltes que vous nous réclamez.

Comme nous ne sommes seulement que cinq à six familles, si nous rentrons à notre village nous n'avons aucune habitation, et nous serons tous perdus à cause du manque d'habitation. Nous prions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire donner tout ce qui nous est dû de nos récoltes de l'année passée ainsi que la location de nos champs qu'ils ont pris cette année ; car l'hiver a déjà commencé ; nous nous trouvons avec nos malheureuses familles sans pain et sans abri.

Nous devons aussi ajouter à votre Excellence que tous nos champs ont été cultivés par les Bulgares sans autorisation préalable, et nos jardins fruitiers ont été détruits.

Quoique nous avons réclamé l'indemnité de ces pertes qu'on nous a fait subir, ils nous ont été refusées par les villageois Bulgares.

Par conséquent nous prions humblement votre Excellence de nous faire donner les récoltes, qui nous sont dues de l'année passée, ainsi que la location de nos champs, et qu'il

nous soit permis d'aller cultiver nos champs. En attendant la décision de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Hemitli-Kébir,
(Signé) OSMAN OGLOU YOUSSOUF.
SULEYMAN OGLOU MEHMED.
HASSAN OGLOU MEHMED.

Le 3 Octobre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 4 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Tcherban.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique.

LES soussignés, vieillards, hommes, femmes, et enfants émigrés du village de Tcherban, sans moyen d'existence, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Pendant la guerre, ayant perdu nos maris, nos pères et protecteurs ; durant notre séjour à Constantinople le Gouvernement nous a fourni de quoi vivre, mais depuis notre retour ici nous nous trouvons sans aucune espèce de soutien et au milieu de la rue sans nourriture. Plusieurs de nous voulaient rentrer dans leurs villages, mais nous aurions trouvé toutes nos propriétés détruites. Pour le moment on nous a relégué à Philippopoli dans des baraques sans toits et sans fenêtres, d'où la pluie et neige pénètrent dedans. Plusieurs de nous nous sommes privées de rations de pain, et nous nous trouvons au désespoir. Déjà parmi nous un certain nombre commencent à donner fin à leur vie à cause du manque de nourriture et du froid.

M. le Consul-Général, votre humanité nous est déjà connue à plusieurs reprises. Par conséquent nous vous supplions de faire donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit afin de nous donner la ration de pain, comme les autres émigrés, et ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim.

Veuillez donc, M. le Consul-Général, venir à notre aide sans perte de temps, et ne pas nous laisser dans cette misère.

En attendant vos ordres.

Les représentants des veuves et des enfants,
(Signé) AHMED
ISMAIL.
MEHMED SALEH.

Le 7 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 5 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Seldjova-Ova.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Seldjova-Ova, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes vingt-deux familles ; avons reçu l'ordre de nous rendre à nos villages et qu'on devait nous donner selon la loi les récoltes qui nous sont dues et reconstruire nos maisons. Cependant, à notre arrivée au village nous avons vu que les récoltes avaient été distribué aux villageois Bulgares de Kara-Toprak. D'après nos demandes et nos réclamations réitérées, on nous a donné avec une grande difficulté approximativement 150 kilés de céréales pour vingt-deux familles, et pour nous donner le reste des récoltes qui nous sont dues on nous fait des difficultés. Cependant, d'après les récoltes que nous avons laissées, il nous revient plus de 1,000 kilés de céréales, et nos champs sont pris par les Bulgares, qui les cultivent eux-mêmes ; jusqu'à ce jour nous n'avons pas pris possession de nos biens et de nos propriétés ; nous nous trouvons dans une très-critique position, comme nous n'avons pas d'autres habitations. L'hiver est déjà arrivé, nous sommes sans abri et sans nourriture, et plusieurs de nous mourront de faim et de froid si cela continue encore. Comme nous ne sommes pas maîtres de nos champs et de nos propriétés, en plus les Bulgares continuent de détruire nos arbres fruitiers.

Nous vous prions donc instamment, M. le Consul-Général, de nous faire donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues, les champs qui nous appartiennent ; faire cesser la coupe de

nos arbres, et nous faire construire nos habitations pour pouvoir passer au moins cette hiver, et de nous faire avoir des matelats et couvertures nécessaires pour couvrir nos malheureuses familles. En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants du village de Seldjova-Ova,
(Signé) IBRAHIM.
HALIL OGLOU HASSAN.

Le 12 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 6 in No. 86.

Petition from a Turk of Keuléler.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

JE soussigné, habitant du village de Keuléler, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Le nommé Cartal Betko, un de nos villageois Bulgares, ayant appris mon arrivée à Philippopoli, a détruit 2½ deunums (10 cuvlek) 250 mètres, les champs de roses que j'avais préparé. Il a même coupé toutes les tiges et les a pris, et en même temps il a ramassé toutes les tiges de raisins que j'avais dans mon terrain, et après avoir détruit ma maison, il a pris la fuite. Il y a deux jours que j'ai adressé une pétition à ce sujet à la Commission des Réfugiés, qui m'ont répondu que suite sera donnée à cette affaire par l'autorité de Carlova, et à mon départ on devait me donner un billet pour la dite autorité. Comme jusqu'à ce jour aucune suite n'a été donnée à mon affaire, mes champs de roses et mes vignes sont ruinés. Espérant que votre Excellence voudra bien prendre cette affaire en très-sérieuse considération, et faire venir ici le susdit Cartal Betko, et me faire avoir selon la loi les pertes qui m'a fait subir.

En attendant impatiemment, M. le Consul-Général, vos ordres en conséquence, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SULEYMAN OGLOU HASSAN,
Du village de Keuléler.

Le 10 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 7 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Douroutlou.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Douroutlou, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes environ 150 familles, réduites à la plus profonde misère, car nos récoltes de l'année passée ont été enlevées par les villageois Bulgares de Couzou-Keuï; quoique la moitié des récoltes nous étaient dues jusqu'à ce jour il nous a été livré seulement 100 kilés, et le reste de 3,400 kilés ont été distribués aux autres réfugiés.

Cependant tous nos villageois se trouvent sans nourriture mourant de faim. Nous vous prions, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien faire donner les ordres nécessaires pour nous faire donner les récoltes de cette année, car si nous restons ainsi nous mourrons tous de faim.

En attendant, M. le Consul-Général, votre juste décision, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants du village Douroutlou,
(Signé) TAHIR.
HASSAN.

Le 10 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 8 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Keverdjekli.

(Traduction.)

A. M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

NOUS soussignés, émigrés Musulmans du village de Keverdjekle, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Après la dernière guerre il a été décidé par l'autorité de nous donner la moitié des récoltes de nos champs. L'autorité nous a donné l'ordre de rentrer dans notre village, et elle nous a informé en outre qu'on devrait nous donner, selon la loi, nos récoltes et nous laisser habiter nos maisons. Nous nous sommes conformés aux ordres de l'autorité, et nous nous sommes rendus à notre village et avons commencé avec notre argent à construire des baraques pour pouvoir nous abriter, ainsi qu'il a été donné des ordres par l'autorité.

Malgré cela on ne nous a pas donné des récoltes—pas même location de nos champs.

Cependant les émigrés Musulmans des villages de Mihayilli et de Yokare Mahalessi, voyant les injustices des Bulgares, ont vendus, vu nécessité absolue, leurs champs, à 50 piastres, tandis que la valeur des champs était de 3 à 4 livres par deunum (100 mètres), et on a construit avec cette somme des baraques pour trente familles, et on devait construire encore quarante baraques. Dans cet intervalle, un soir, à 3 heures de la nuit à la Turque, on a brûlé cinq baraques et du quartier de Achalie Mahalé; le nommé Asso Oglou Elia, pendant que le nommé Husséyin Oglou Ahmed achetait du pain de l'épicier, il lui a donné un coup à la tête avec un fusil, et a blessé le malheureux Husséyin Oglou Ahmed, et les Bulgares continuent à brûler nos baraques continuellement. Vu ces atrocités et ces injustices, il nous est impossible de vivre avec nos villageois Bulgares.

Nous vous prions, M. le Consul-Général, de nous faire avoir la justice, et nous assurer pour pouvoir vivre avec ces gens sans désagréments.

En attendant vos ordres en conséquence, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants du village de Keverdjekle,
(Signé) MOUHTAR MEHMET.
ALI.

Le 12 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 9 in No. 86.

Petition from Turks of Salihli.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Salihli, district d'Adjouréboun, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les signataires se composant de quatre-vingt-cinq familles, habitions assez tranquillement dans nos villages. Nos récoltes de l'année passée ont été prises par les villageois Bulgares. Du district Adjar, sur les récoltes de 2,666 kilés qui nous étaient dues on nous a donné seulement 789½ kilés, et le reste ils ont refusé de nous les donner; sur cela nous avons dû adresser à votre Excellence, il y a déjà vingt jours, une pétition par laquelle nous vous exposions l'injustice dont nous étions victimes; alors votre Excellence avait envoyé les ordres au (Caïmacam) Gouverneur du village d'Abrachlar; cette ordonnance a été expdiée de suite; à la suite de cela on a réuni les Notables du village pour vérifier cette affaire. Le Gouverneur a fait part à ces Notables que, d'après des ordres supérieurs, on doit restituer les récoltes intactes des villageois Musulmans. En présence du Gouverneur on a vérifié nos comptes et les Notables ont déclaré de nous avoir donné 1,300 et tant de kilés de blé, tandis que nous n'avons pas reçu plus de 789½ kilés de céréales. Comme on a distribué toutes les céréals qui nous sont dues aux villageois Bulgares, et comme nous nous trouvons actuellement sans blé et sans nourriture, nous prions instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit, afin de nous faire donner au moins des récoltes de l'année courante, et ne pas nous laisser souffrir cette misère avec nos malheureuses familles.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants du village Salihli,
(Suivent les 6 signatures.)

Le 10 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

No. 87.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 388. Most Confidential.)

Philippopoli, November 20, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE the conversation reported in my despatch No. 358 of the 15th instant General Strecker has endeavoured on several occasions to remove from my mind the impression that he is inclined to act under exclusively Russian influence, and has also evinced a certain amount of alarm and annoyance at having been accused of such a tendency in a recent number of the "Commercial Advertiser" ("Levant Herald").

At the same time, the arguments used by the General on these occasions have amounted to a justification rather than to a disavowal of his apparent course of action.

They have, in fact, amounted to this, that so long as Russian influence is paramount at Constantinople and Philippopoli (and he is evidently under the impression that such is the case), his only chance of success in the administration of his Department lies in the utilization of that influence and in the conciliation of the paramount Bulgarian element in this province.

Surrounded as he is, with rare exceptions, by officers in pursuit of a political object, he meets with opposition in all his endeavours to enforce a strictly military discipline and an honest execution of duties. He has likewise to struggle against the propensity to peculation which unfortunately accompanies the political proclivities of many of the officers with whom he has to deal. The only persons in whom he is now able to repose entire confidence are three or four German officers of superior character, and Baron de Toustain, the chief of his staff, whom he had at first been induced to regard as unfit for the post to which he had been appointed by General Vitalis.

When I asked the General why, in these circumstances, he did not insist on the dismissal of the more untrustworthy Russian officers, he replied that the Russian Government was evidently determined to maintain the present number of its officers in this province, for on a recent occasion he had only been able to get rid of three notoriously bad officers by agreeing to accept three others designated for that purpose by General Douhonin.

It is also within my knowledge that the three new officers in question joined the East Roumelia Militia, not as volunteers, but in pursuance of orders from the Russian Ministry of War.

The General gave me further to understand that in keeping well with Aleko Pasha and his Russian advisers, he was only carrying out the verbal instructions given to him when he left Constantinople by Aarifi Pasha, Osman Pasha, and Safvet Pasha. His neglect of that advice would, in his opinion, leave him without any support whatever even at Constantinople, and when I spoke to him of the necessity of retaining the confidence of the Western Powers, and principally of England, Austria, and Germany, which could not allow the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute to become a mere mockery in this province, the General pointed to the apparent unwillingness of those Powers to interfere actively with the Russo-Bulgarian Administration of Aleko Pasha.

While the fate of the latter seemed, from public report, to be hanging in the balance at Constantinople, General Strecker appeared momentarily to take into serious consideration the possibility of English, Austrian, and German influence being asserted at the Porte in the direction above mentioned. But when the press stated that the Governor-General had obtained at the hands of the Sultan the highest decoration of the Empire, both General Strecker and his countryman, M. Schmidt, evinced unfeigned annoyance and despair, accompanied by an ironical hilarity at "this last act of the comedy that was being played out in Eastern Roumelia."

I therefore think that I am justified in recording the opinion that unless General Strecker is made to feel that Russian influence is not as powerful at Constantinople as he imagines it to be, and that the principal Western Powers are combined to oppose the policy of Russia in this province, as carried out by Aleko Pasha, he will offer no resistance to the political current, but will swim with it within the bounds of outward decorum and loyalty.

M. Schmidt has a superior consciousness of his duty towards the Powers that created this province as a barrier against Panslavism, and may be relied upon, even in moments of despondency. He has also this advantage over General Strecker, that he is a single man,

and can always return to the employment from which he was taken by the European Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 88.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 389.)

Philippopoli, November 29, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed extract records the return of Aleko Pasha to Philippopoli on the 27th instant, but it is incorrect in two particulars. Owing possibly to the earliness of the hour, only a body of Deputies and a few officials composed the "immense crowd" which is alleged to have greeted the return of the Governor-General; and in the second place the statement that the Sultan had been pleased to confer on his Excellency the Order of the Osmanié has proved to be premature, if not inexact.

It has evidently been based on information which I find has been largely communicated by the Governor-General himself, who has stated that, on leaving the presence of the Sultan, an Imperial Aide-de-camp followed him with a gracious message to the effect that His Majesty had been pleased to confer upon him the Order of the Osmanié of the First Class.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 89.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1039.)

Pera, November 27, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed statistics of the relative numbers of Mussulmans and Christians employed in the higher public offices in the Turkish Empire, compiled from the official almanack or "Salnameh," is published by the "Phare du Bosphore."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore."

Statistique des Hauts Dignitaires et Fonctionnaires Supérieurs de l'Empire Ottoman, d'après l'Almanach Officiel (Salnameh) de l'année 1296 (1879).

Hauts Dignitaires et Fonctionnaires d'après leur rang.

HAUTS Dignitaires à rang de Muchir.—Musulmans 101, Grecs 6, Arméniens 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 8. Totaux généraux, 109.

Hauts Dignitaires à rang de Bala.—Musulmans 34, Grecs 5, Arméniens 5, Catholiques et étrangers 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 12. Totaux généraux, 46.

Hauts Fonctionnaires à rang d'Oula Eweli.—Musulmans 114, Grecs 7, Bulgare 1; Arméniens 5, Catholique et étrangers 5. Total des non-Musulmans, 3. Totaux généraux, 132.

Hauts Fonctionnaires à rang de Roumélie Beylerbey.—Musulmans 53, Grec 1, Arménien 1, Catholique 1. Total des non-Musulmans, 3. Totaux généraux, 56.

Total.—Musulmans 302, Grecs 19, Bulgare 1, Arméniens 13, Catholiques et étrangers 8. Total des non-Musulmans, 41. Totaux généraux, 343.

Grand Corps de l'Etat.

Conseil des Ministres.—Musulmans 13, Grecs 2.

Sénat.—Musulmans 28, Grecs 5, Bulgare 1, Arménien 1, Catholique 1, Israélites 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 11. Totaux généraux, 39.

Total.—Musulmans 41, Grecs 8, Bulgare 1, Arménien 1, Catholique 1, Israélites 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 13. Totaux généraux, 54.

Maison de Sa Majesté Impériale et Services Publics.

Maison de Sa Majesté Impériale.—Musulmans 73, Grecs 2, Arménien 1, Catholique 1. Total des non-Musulmans 4. Totaux généraux, 77.

Grand Vizirat.—Musulmans, 42. Sous-Secrétaires d'Etat à rang de Bala.—Musulmans 9, Arméniens 3.

Chefs de Division des Ministères.—Musulmans 64, Arméniens 5, Catholiques 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 7.

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.—Musulmans 36, Grec 1, Arméniens 11, Catholique 1. Total des non-Musulmans, 13. Totaux généraux, 49.

Ministère de l'Intérieur.—Musulman 1, Arménien 1.

Conseil d'Etat.—Musulmans 45, Grecs 3, Arméniens 3, Catholique 1, Israélite 1. Total des non-Musulmans, 8. Totaux généraux, 53.

Ministère de la Justice.—Musulmans 25, Arméniens 2.

Ministère des Travaux Publics.—Musulmans 16, Grec 1, Arméniens 2, Catholiques 6. Total des non-Musulmans, 9. Totaux généraux, 25.

Ministère des Finances.—Musulmans, 72.

Administration de la Douane.—Musulmans, 38.

Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.—Musulmans 24, Grecs 2, Arménien 1, Catholiques et étrangers 3. Total des non-Musulmans, 6. Totaux généraux, 30.

Ministère de l'Evkaf.—Musulmans, 31.

Ministère de la Liste Civile.—Musulmans 21, Grec 1.

Ministère du Commerce et de l'Agriculture.—Musulmans 24, Grec 1, Arméniens 13, Catholique 1. Total des non-Musulmans, 15. Totaux généraux, 39.

Administration du Defterhané.—Mussulmans, 17.

Ministère des Postes et Télégraphes.—Musulmans 50, Grecs 2, Arméniens 1, Catholiques 7. Total des non-Musulmans, 10. Totaux généraux, 60.

Ministère de la Guerre.—Musulmans 247, Grecs 4, Arméniens 3, Catholique 1. Total des non-Musulmans, 8. Totaux généraux, 255.

Ministère de la Marine.—Musulmans 185, Grecs 4, Arméniens 8, Catholiques et étrangers 8. Total des non-Musulmans, 20. Totaux généraux, 205.

Ministère de l'Artillerie.—Musulmans 116, Catholiques et étrangers 2.

Ministère de la Police.—Musulmans 113, Grecs 4, Arméniens 3, Catholiques et étrangers 16. Total des non-Musulmans, 23. Totaux généraux, 136.

Administration des Mines et Forêts.—Musulmans 17, Grec 1, Arméniens 5, Catholiques et étrangers 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 8. Totaux généraux, 25.

Préfecture de la Ville.—Musulmans 63, Grec 1, Catholique 1.

Administration Sanitaire.—Musulmans 9, Grecs 2, Arméniens 3. Total des non-Musulmans, 5. Totaux généraux, 14.

Capou-Kehayas de Vilayets.—Musulmans 19, Arménien 1.

Juges, Professeurs, et Médecins Militaires.

Membres des Tribunaux de Constantinople.—Musulmans 109, Grecs 11, Bulgare 1, Arméniens 13, Catholique 1, Israélite 1. Total des non-Musulmans, 27. Totaux généraux, 136.

Professors des Ecoles Publiques.—Musulmans 331, Grecs 8, Bulgare 1, Arméniens 6, Catholiques et étrangers 42. Total des non-Musulmans, 57. Totaux généraux, 388.

Professeurs et Médicins Militaires.—Musulmans 293, Grecs 19, Bulgare 1, Arméniens 11, Catholiques et étrangers 18, Israélites 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 51. Totaux généraux, 344.

Professeurs et Médicins de la Marine.—Musulmans 27, Grec 1, Catholiques et étrangers 2. Total des non-Musulmans, 3. Totaux généraux, 30.

Administration Provinciale.

Governeurs-Généraux.—Musulmans 29, Grec 1.

Sous-Gouverneurs.—Musulmans 75, Grecs 2, Catholiques et étrangers 2.

Hauts Fonctionnaires des Vilayets.—Musulmans 472, Grecs 8, Bulgare 1, Arméniens 4, Catholiques et étrangers 5. Total des non-Musulmans, 18. Totaux généraux, 490.

Corps Diplomatique.

Chefs de Mission.—Musulmans 7, Grecs 3.

Secrétaires et Attachés.—Musulmans 16, Grecs 9, Bulgare 1, Arméniens 4, Catholiques et étrangers 3 Total des non-Musulmans, 17. Totaux généraux, 33.

Corps Consulaire.—Musulmans 14, Grecs 11, Arméniens 5, Catholiques et étrangers 11. Total des non-Musulmans, 27. Totaux généraux, 41.

No. 90.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1041.)

Pera, November 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article from the "Turdjimani Hakikat," stating that Midhat Pasha has given official instructions to the Governors under his jurisdiction not to recognize the Imperial orders for the organization of the Tribunals, *i.e.*, the new regulations for the administration of justice to which I have called your Lordship's attention, and which have given so much dissatisfaction in all parts of the Empire. The article further states that the Minister of Justice has called the attention of the Council of Ministers to this act of disobedience on the part of his Highness. It is not improbable that the proceeding attributed to Midhat Pasha is true, as he informed me when I saw him in Damascus that the new regulations had completely disorganized the Law Courts, and only served to increase the abuses and corruption which, it is averred, they were intended to prevent.

I am informed that Ahmed Ayoub Pasha, the "Mushir" or Military Commander-in-chief in Syria, of whose intrigues and opposition Midhat Pasha made serious complaints, which I had an opportunity to bring to the notice of the Sultan, has been removed to a similar command in the Vilayet of Baghdad. This is a concession to his Highness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 91.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1042.)

Pera, November 28, 1879

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 668 of the 27th July last respecting the persecution of Armenian Protestants at the Dardanelles by their countrymen of the Gregorian Armenian Church, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Maling, stating that an attempt to renew the acts complained of had been promptly checked by the Turkish authorities. I have directed Mr. Maling to press the authorities to discover the culprit, who, it appears, has concealed himself, in order that he may undergo the punishment to which he has been sentenced.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Maling to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Dardanelles, November* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of a renewed attempt to molest the native Protestants under the wonted shape of stone throwing.

In this instance, I am glad to say, the offence has been dealt with at once.

I supported the Protestants' complaint and demand for redress, and the offender, a Gregorian Armenian, has been condemned to what I consider the fair, merited, and exemplary punishment of three months' imprisonment.

I attribute the judicial authorities' intelligent and prompt action on this occasion to the circumstance of the Criminal Courts being presided over by an intelligent Mussulman from Janina, a recent appointment, whose conduct of business is a great improvement on things as they were.

The heads and better portion of the Gregorian body continue openly and emphatically to condemn and reprobate the misconduct of a few of the lower orders, whose ignorance is made an instrument of by one or two fanatical "irreconcilables."

I have to add, however, with regret, that, owing to the shipshod nature of Turkish legal procedure, the offender, when called up for judgment, was not to be found, and the probability is that, by keeping out of the way until the matter is forgotten, he will escape the punishment pronounced against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. MALING.

No. 92.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 1043. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Pera, November* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I have received from the Armenian Patriarch relative to attempts which he states are being made to convert Armenians in the district of Aleppo to Roman Catholicism. I have forwarded a copy of his Beatitude's letter to Mr. Consul Henderson for his observation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Monsignor Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Particulière.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, le* $\frac{14}{16}$ *Novembre*, 1879.

LES autorités ecclésiastiques de la Cilicie m'apprennent que le Consul de France, et surtout celui d'Italie à Alep, semblent poursuivre une politique tendant à convertir au Catholicisme les Arméniens de cette partie de la Turquie d'Asie. L'affaire du village de Ghenia pourrait servir de preuve à cette assertion.

Il y a dans ce village un Arménien influent, nommé Chéikh Hanné, qui prend soin des intérêts de la communauté Arménienne. Ce fait a suffi pour le rendre odieux au clergé Catholique de Ghenia, qui s'est adressé en dernier lieu à son Excellence Saïd Pacha, Gouverneur d'Alep, pour obtenir son bannissement. L'intervention de sa Béatitude le Catholicos de Sis a servi à faire échouer pour le moment ce projet impie.

Mais les Catholiques ne manqueront pas de revenir à la charge, soutenus qu'ils sont par les Consuls d'Italie et de France. C'est pourquoi je crois devoir m'adresser à votre Excellence pour la prier de vouloir bien recommander d'une manière toute spéciale à Mr. Henderson de prendre en main la défense des intérêts des Arméniens de Ghenia, pour les soustraire à la pression exercée par les Séides de la Papauté.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERCÈS.

No. 93.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 1044.)

My Lord, *Pera, November* 28, 1879.

SOME months ago Mr. Crawley, who brought me a letter of recommendation from your Lordship, submitted a plan to the Porte for the construction of iron floating quays on both sides of the Golden Horn. I gave him such assistance as I properly could in bringing his proposal to the notice of the Porte.

The Sultan, to whom it was submitted, expressed himself much pleased with it, and after having been examined by a Commission, it was referred to the Council of State. There, like everything else, it has remained, without any progress having been made in examining it. Mr. Crawley, I have reason to believe, was informed that if he chose to bribe some of the members of that body, a decision in favour of the plan would be given by it. This he refused to do, relying upon the merits of the scheme, and the great advantages it offered to commerce and shipping and to the Porte. In the meantime some functionaries, whom probably Mr. Crawley would not pay, endeavoured to bring forward an opposition scheme. They invited to Constantinople M. Dussot, the constructor of the Smyrna quays, promising to obtain for him a concession for the Constantinople quays if he would apply for it. He was, I believe, unwilling to do so, but ultimately proposed a plan for constructing them in stone, which required an outlay of money on the part of the Porte far beyond its means. The plan was consequently rejected. Some other schemes were suggested, but Mr. Crawley's was generally admitted to be the most practicable and advantageous, as the work could be commenced at once, could be carried on without any interference with the business of the port, and would entail no outlay whatever on the part of the Turkish Government. However, as Mr. Crawley still refused to bribe, he was unable to overcome the opposition in the Council of State, and after remaining here several months he returned to England, leaving an agent to represent him.

Some two or three weeks ago a M. Michel, who calls himself his Excellency Michel Pasha, appeared on the scene. This gentleman was the original promoter of the concession for lighting the Turkish coasts, which was given to M. Collas, himself, and others, who have made enormous profits by it.

M. Michel, supported by the French Embassy, and, I am assured, by giving large sums of money to high functionaries and to persons in the Palace (one of the Ministers has told me that he was offered a considerable bribe for his support), succeeded in obtaining an audience of the Sultan, and prevailing upon His Majesty to give him the concession for the construction of quays in the Golden Horn. His Majesty was prevailed upon to send an Iradé to the Porte to grant this concession at once, without any of the formalities being gone through which are required in such cases. All the Ministers, in obedience to the Imperial order, signed a "Mazbata" adopting M. Michel's scheme with the exception of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who refused to do so, on the grounds that the Council was entirely ignorant of its nature, as it had not even been examined and approved by the Council of State according to the law, and that, if accepted, it might gravely compromise the Turkish Government, and place upon it very heavy responsibilities.

Notwithstanding this protest, M. Michel has received his concession. I have the honour to inclose a copy of its terms, which, I am assured, is authentic with the exception that an additional Article has been inserted by the Porte, making the concession contingent upon the assent of the European Powers to the payment of the proposed dues.

Your Lordship will perceive that nothing is said in the Convention as to the manner in which the quays are to be constructed, but I understood that M. Michel has in part adopted Mr. Crawley's scheme of floating iron stages, adding to it works in stone.

The hasty and unusual manner in which this concession has been granted has caused considerable scandal here. It is said that M. Michel has already been offered, and has refused, a very large sum of money for it. If the execution of the scheme is found to be impracticable, it is confidently anticipated that it will be made to appear that it is the fault of the Porte, and that, supported by the French Embassy, M. Michel will be able to extort an enormous indemnity from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Commission granted to M. Michel.

LA concession de la construction et de l'exploitation des quais du port de Constantinople, du côté de Stamboul, jusqu'à, et y compris l'échelle de Sishedjil Iskelessy, et du côté de Galata depuis le pont d'Ayap Caplon jusqu'au quai de la maîtrise d'artillerie de Tophané avec leurs dépendances et concessions.

2. La concession de l'établissement, et l'exploitation d'un service de bâteaux à vapeur entre les deux rives de la Corne d'Or, dans les limites de l'établissement des quais.

3. La concession de l'établissement de l'exploitation de droits et entrepôts par marchandises.

4. La concession de l'établissement et de l'exploitation de tramways, omnibus, camionage, et autres moyens de transport tant sur les voies maritimes que sur les autres voies créées par les travaux à exécuter par le concessionnaire.

5. La concession d'entretien et de l'exploitation des deux ponts.

Art. 2. La durée de la concession est fixée à soixante-dix ans à partir de l'Iradé approuvant les Status de la Compagnie, dont il sera parlé ci-après.

Art. 3. Tous les travaux ci-dessus énumérés seront exécutés aux frais, risques, et périls de la Compagnie, que le concessionnaire se sera substitué et ce délai maximum de dix années à partir du jour de l'Iradé approuvant les Statuts de la dite Compagnie.

Art. 4. Le Gouvernement cède au concessionnaire gratuitement et en toute propriété les terrains appartenant à l'Etat sur toute la longueur des quais à établir, ainsi que tous les terrains acquis sur la mer par suite de la construction des quais.

Art. 5. Une entente à intervenir entre le Gouvernement et le concessionnaire déterminera :—

(1.) Le lieu où sera définitivement établi le pont existant actuellement à Kanguemi ;

(2.) L'emplacement où seront construits les établissements des douanes de Galata et de Stamboul ;

(3.) Le lieu où seront établis les bâtiments de l'Office Sanitaire et du Liman Odassi, et les chantiers de réparation existant actuellement près du vieux pont.

Art. 6. La Compagnie aura le droit d'acquérir par voie d'expropriation pour cause d'utilité publique, et à ses frais, les propriétés particulières existant sur le parcours des quais à construire ou qui seraient nécessaires pour l'établissement des lots et entrepôts et des voies de dégagement et autres.

Art. 7. La Compagnie aura le droit de revendiquer comme elle l'entendra tous les terrains lui appartenant et provenant, soit de la cession gratuite qui lui est faite par l'Etat, comme il est dit à l'Article 3, soit conquis sur la mer, soit acquis de ses derniers par voie d'expropriation ou autrement, et qui resteront sans emploi après l'établissement des quais, des docks, et entrepôts et des voies publiques.

Art. 8. Pour se rembourser de ses dépenses de toute sorte et se couvrir des frais qui sont à sa charge, la Compagnie percevera pendant toute la durée de la concession :—

(1.) Un franc par tonne de jauge pour droits d'attendre, sur tout navire à voile ou à vapeur opérant à quai ;

(2.) Trois francs par tonne de marchandises embarquées ou débarquées par les quais par les soins de la Compagnie ;

(3.) Un droit fixe, par abonnement annuel, sur tout remorqueur et tout bateau à vapeur faisant le service journalier du Bosphore, des îles, et des autres échelles de la banlieue de Constantinople, et qui s'amarreraient aux quais ;

(4.) Un droit de quai sur chaque caïque, barque, ou malwein abordant aux quais ;

(5.) Un droit fixe par passager débarquant aux quais, lequel droit sera déterminé ultérieurement d'accord avec le Gouvernement Impérial ;

(6.) Un droit fixe par tête d'animal débarqué ou embarqué sur le quai, lequel droit sera déterminé d'un commun accord avec le Gouvernement Impérial.

Art. 9. La Compagnie payera au Gouvernement Impérial pendant toute la durée de la concession 10 pour cent sur les recettes brutes de tous les droits de quai énumérés à l'Article précédent.

Art. 10. La Compagnie prendra à bail pendant toute la durée de la concession moyennant une somme annuelle à déterminer d'un commun accord, la recette des deux ponts.

Art. 11. La Compagnie fera au Gouvernement Impérial l'avance nécessaire à l'acquisition des terrains et à la construction des établissements de la douane de l'Office de Santé et du Liman Odassi.

La Compagnie fera en outre au Gouvernement une avance d'argent à déterminer pour les besoins du Trésor.

L'intérêt et l'amortissement de ces deux avances seront garanties et servies par les redevances au Gouvernement Impérial aux termes des Articles

Art. 12. Les droits d'entrepôt que paiera la marchandise entreposée dans les docks et entrepôts que le concessionnaire a le droit d'établir à ses frais, risques, et périls, ne pourront excéder 10 paras par kanver et par jour pour le premier mois, avec augmentation de 20 pour cent pour les mois suivants, jusqu'à 20 paras par jour et par kanvar, qui sera le maximum.

Art. 13. Les plans des quais à construire, des établissements et des voies à établir, devront être soumis à l'approbation du Gouvernement Impérial.

Art. 14. Un cahier des charges sera débattu et arrêté entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Compagnie pour régler tous les détails de la concession et de l'exploitation de la présente concession instamment :—

(1.) La mode de construction des quais, des docks, et des entrepôts, des tramways, et autres voies ;

(2.) Le Tarif du transport des marchandises par les soins de la Compagnie ;

(3.) Le Tarif des baes à vapeur et des tramways ;

(4.) Du mode de procéder pour les expropriations ;

(5.) La réglementation du contrôle à exercer par l'Etat.

Art. 15. A l'expiration du terme de la concession, la Compagnie remettra au Gouvernement Impérial dans un bon état d'entretien les quais et tous leurs accessoires, les docks et entrepôts, les baes à vapeur, tramways, et leur matériel, et en un mot tous ses établissements, à la seule exception des terrains construits ou non construits à elle appartenant et dont elle restera propriétaire.

Art. 16. Dans le cas où à l'expiration de la concession le Gouvernement aurait l'intention de concéder à des tiers les entreprises qui font l'objet de cette concession ; la Compagnie jouissait d'un droit de préférence à conditions égales.

Art. 16. (*Sic in orig.*)

Toute contestation qui pourrait surgir entre le Gouvernement et le concessionnaire, ou la Compagnie qui lui sera substitué, sera jugé par un Tribunal Arbitral, dont les décisions seront définitives et sans appel.

Art. 17. Le concessionnaire s'engage :—

(1.) A justifier dans le délai de mois de la constitution d'une Compagnie au capital de pour l'exécution de la présente Convention, et à soumettre les Statuts de la Société à l'approbation du Gouvernement Impérial ;

(2.) A verser à la Banque Impériale dans l'extrême délai de mois, la somme de à titre de cautionnement, pour répondre de l'exécution de ses engagements et de ceux de la Compagnie.

Dans le cas où le concessionaire ne remplirait par ces deux conditions dans le délai de , la concession lui serait retiré de plein droit et la présente Convention serait considérée comme nulle et non avenue.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 1048. Confidential.)

Pera, November 30, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT CORTI informs me that he has pointed out very strongly to his Government the objections which, in his opinion, exist to the reference of the question of the new Greek frontier to the Representatives at Constantinople of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin, in the event of the Turkish and Greek Plenipotentiaries not being able to arrive at an agreement in the matter. He believes that the two countries are further than ever from arriving at an understanding on the subject, and that, after one or two meetings more, the Conference must inevitably break up, and Greece will, no doubt, then appeal to the Powers for their mediation. In such case, he thinks, it will not only be exceedingly difficult, if possible, to carry out the suggestion made by M. Waddington in his Circular of that the Ambassadors should meet at Constantinople to agree to the terms to be proposed to Turkey and Greece, that their discussions should be secret, and that their decisions should only be communicated to the parties concerned when unanimous; but that it is very undesirable that the question should be referred at all to the foreign Representatives at the Porte. His arguments are that the Porte would

resent as an insult and an indignity a Conference, in which it has no voice, sitting in the Turkish capital for the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire; and that the result of the Conference which met at Constantinople before the war furnishes a warning of this; that secrecy could not be maintained, and that opinions expressed by some of the foreign Representatives at the meetings would inevitably be made use of by others, hostile to their policy or interests, to influence the Porte against them; that Ambassadors are here, not to support the interests of Greece or of any other State, but those of their own country, and that, consequently, their influence, and the success of negotiations in which they might be engaged, should not be endangered by the duty being imposed upon them of dealing with a question so unpalatable to the Turks as that of the Greek frontier; that they have no means of forming a judgment upon the respective claims of Turkey and Greece, if the question is to be impartially and fully inquired into, and to be decided upon military, ethnological, and geographical considerations; that, consequently, they can only be guided by the foregone conclusions of their Governments as to the frontier to be given to Greece, without entering upon these considerations; that to come to an unanimous decision it will, therefore, be necessary for them to have identical instructions; and that, such being the case, the Signatory Powers can come to an understanding amongst themselves, and communicate their decision to Turkey and Greece without the necessity of a Conference of Ambassadors, which could only re-echo the opinion of the Powers, without, moreover, having any means of enforcing it.

Such are Count Corti's principal arguments against the Conference of Ambassadors proposed by M. Waddington. He begged me to submit them to your Lordship. I venture to express my agreement in most of them. I have always considered that the Conference could have no practical result, and was open to very serious objection. I find, also, that my French and Austrian colleagues share Count Corti's views on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 95.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1052.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 1, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY has for some time demanded the recall of Nasif Pasha, the Governor-General of Kossovo, who is strongly suspected of having encouraged the Albanians to resist the occupation by Austria of the district of Novi-Bazar, and to oppose the decisions of the Turkish Government in other matters.

I had strongly urged the Porte to comply with this demand, as I had every reason to believe that Nasif Pasha was secretly supporting the Albanian League, which threatens to give so much trouble.

It was, however, only to-day that the Council of Ministers decided upon taking this measure, and Count Zichy attributes its decision to Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who had promised that he could obtain it. My colleague has a high opinion of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, and believes him to be the only member of the present Ministry upon whose word any reliance can be placed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 96.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1055. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 1, 1879.*

M. FOURNIER spoke to me yesterday of an interview that he has recently had with the Sultan. He said that His Majesty asked him his opinion of the policy of England, and as to the object Her Majesty's Government had in view in threatening to send the British fleet to Turkish waters, and requested his advice as to the course which Turkey should pursue with regard to England and Russia. He replied that, as far as he understood the matter, England was desirous to see the reforms promised by His Majesty put into execution, and that it was of essential importance to her, considering the

engagements that she had entered into with Turkey, that they should be. His Majesty observed that England was very hard upon him, even much more so than Russia, and that her demands and pretensions were such that he could not, consistently with his independence and dignity, yield to them. M. Fournier said that he replied to His Majesty that he believed that all England asked for was, "a little security on the high roads; a little justice in the Tribunals, and a little honesty in the finances." These demands could scarcely be considered unreasonable. As regards the policy which His Majesty ought to pursue with regard to England and Russia, M. Fournier added that his advice to the Sultan was that he should lean to neither the one nor the other, but endeavour to hold the balance equally between the two.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 97.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1061.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Adrianople and Bourgas on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Adrianople, November 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have exchanged official visits with the Governor-General, Réouf Pasha, who received me with distinguished honours and with the greatest personal cordiality.

His Excellency made many inquiries of me regarding the state of Eastern Roumelia and the treatment of the returning Mussulman refugees. It appeared to me, however, that his Excellency, while deploring the sufferings of the Turkish population in the neighbouring province, was particularly careful not to utter a syllable of blame of the Eastern Roumelian authorities or of the Russian Government.

I am informed that, on the passage of Aleko Pasha through Adrianople, on his way to Constantinople the other day, Réouf Pasha, with a whole battalion of troops, went to the railway station to meet his colleague, whom he entertained at dinner in the hotel adjoining the station.

Aleko Pasha and his Director of Public Works, M. Vulcovitch, on their arrival here, wore the fez, which they had substituted for the kalpak after passing Hermanly, the last station in Eastern Roumelia.

I hope your Excellency will pardon me for mentioning these details, which, trivial as they may appear, I have thought right to place on record, as signs of the general drift of Turkish policy, and not in any way as reflecting on Réouf Pasha, who, from all accounts, seems to be fulfilling his difficult duties in the way best befitting a true Turkish patriot and an administrator of the most enlightened order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Adrianople, November 21, 1879.*

MY Austrian colleague, M. Piombazzi, has informed me that Prince Tzeretelew, on his return from Livadia recently, was the bearer of special greetings from the Tzar to his

Excellency Réouf Pasha, and of a message to the effect that His Imperial Majesty was highly gratified by the reports which had reached him of the administration of his Excellency, and of the successful efforts made by the Turkish authorities of this province to insure the maintenance of peace and order on the frontier of Eastern Roumelia.

The message was not, it appears, delivered to the Vali by Prince Tzeretelew in person, who spent only one night at Adrianople, but by the Russian Consul here, who called upon his Excellency the following morning for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 97.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, November 21, 1879.

Sir,

IN connection with the projected extension of Bulgarian predominance towards Constantinople, an idea which has long been warmly entertained by the Pan-Bulgarian party at Philippopoli, it may be worth while to report to your Excellency that I have been confidentially informed that a sum of 40,000 piastres (£T. 400) was forwarded from Philippopoli about a month ago to the Bulgarian Bishop of this city, and that this sum represents an annual contribution which the National Committee of Philippopoli have allotted for the support of Bulgarian seminaries in this province.

I am also informed that, during the Russian occupation, a sum of £T. 1,500 was subscribed for the same purpose by the Russian promoters of the Pan-Bulgarian movement, and that this sum was sent to a bank in Russia, where it remains at the disposal of the Bulgarian community of Adrianople. From reports which reached me while at Philippopoli, I have reason to believe that the Bulgarian Bishop of this place is at the head of a very active though at present unobtrusive society, which is labouring to recruit and strengthen the Slav element of the population, in the hope of eventually overwhelming the Greek element. Though in the main most just and impartial, the administration of Réouf Pasha appears to furnish some grounds of complaint to the Greeks, who accuse his Excellency of unnecessary complacency towards the Bulgarians, and of being too subservient to Russian advice in matters which are now in dispute between the two principal sections of the Christian population.

To what extent these complaints are well founded I am not yet in a position to judge, nor am I able to inform your Excellency as to the relative proportions of the Greek and Bulgarian elements of the population, regarding which I hear the most contradictory statements; but I shall shortly take the liberty of entering more fully on this subject, which, as your Excellency will no doubt admit, may be fraught with momentous results for the future of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 97.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, November 24, 1879.

Sir,

WITH the object of keeping the Consulate of Adrianople well informed of the progress of events in this vilayet, I have addressed a circular to the British Vice-Consuls of Enos, Rodosto, Gallipoli, and Dédé Agatch, requesting them either to report directly to this Consulate, or to forward to me copies of the reports which they may have occasion to address to your Excellency or to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Constantinople.

I avail myself of this opportunity to request your Excellency to be kind enough to inform me whether this Office, now that it has been raised to a Consulate, will continue, as heretofore, to be included in the Consular district of Constantinople.

I trust that your Excellency will not disapprove of my having instructed the Vice-Consuls of this province in the sense above reported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 97.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, November 25, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I was present at a review of troops which was held this morning, on the occasion of the festival of Courban Baïram, by Réouf Pasha, in the grounds of the Old Seraglio.

The troops which took part in this review were about 3,000 in number, and consisted of 6 battalions of infantry, 1 regiment of cavalry of the Guard, 1 battery of foot, and 5 of horse artillery.

With the exception of one battalion of infantry of the Guard, and of the artillery, the marching of the troops past the saluting point was anything but satisfactory. The marching of the infantry was very irregular, and cannot bear comparison with that of the Russian troops whom I have seen reviewed at Philippopoli, or even of the Eastern Roumelian militia, who have managed to acquire a remarkable evenness of step and general steadiness under arms.

On the other hand the artillery, both horse and foot, displayed far greater steadiness, combined with quickness and freedom of movement, than I have at any time seen in the Russian artillery.

The troops under review were all well clothed, with the exception of one battalion of Redifs belonging to this province, who had just returned from the Greek frontier, and who are about to be disbanded.

The cavalry and artillery horses were small, but strong and wiry looking animals.

Réouf Pasha was attended by a tolerably numerous staff, among whom were Kerim Pasha, the Commander of the local forces, Ahmet Pasha, commanding the artillery, Khosref Bey, commanding the cavalry, Colonel Whitty of the gendarmerie, &c.

I am glad to be able to inform your Excellency that the troops in the Province of Adrianople were yesterday paid an instalment of half a month's pay. The sum required for this purpose was obtained by the sale of a part of the grain tithes to the Ottoman Bank.

I may add that the most admirable discipline prevails among the troops in garrison here, notwithstanding the hardships to which they have been individually exposed, owing to the non-receipt of their long accumulating arrears of pay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 97.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, November 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following particulars of an outrage lately committed by Bulgarians upon returning Mussulman refugees in the village of Shaban Kyra, in the Canton of Bourgas.

This village, originally entirely Mussulman, and of about eighty houses, is now inhabited by Bulgarians from different parts, who have appropriated the property of the original owners. Some weeks since four Mussulman families, after staying some time in Bourgas, plucked up courage to return to their homes in Shaban Kyra, the Bulgarians located there assuring them before the Prefect (and, as it happened, in my presence) that they should be treated "as brothers."

On their arrival in the village, the four Turkish families were lodged in one house (belonging to Hadji Mehemet Aga), the only dwelling vacated for them by the Bulgars; for many days they suffered the usual insults always lavished by the Bulgarians upon defenceless Mussulmans, such as blows, revilement of their religion, their priests, their ancestors, &c., and forcing their women to go unveiled, with all of which they were obliged to put up. About the 18th October the house in which they lived was broken open at night by a band of armed Bulgars, some of whom were masked, who carried off and violated two married women (the wives of Ali Oglou Mehemet and Mehemet Oglou Mustafa), and a girl of 12 (Mira, daughter of Hadji Mehemet).

All the Turks were of course severely beaten, and the wife of Ismail Oglou Hassan had her arm broken by a blow from the stock of a rifle.

One of the principal aggressors was recognized as a certain Ivan, of Couroudéré, who had been brought up from a child in the house of Hadji Mehemet, and, with one or two others, is now in prison here.

The Turkish families have come to Bourgas, and now refuse to return to their village, in spite of the fair promises of future protection held out to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 97.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, November 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 7th instant M. Economoff, Prefect of Slivnia, but lately nominated temporarily in the same capacity at Bourgas, left this town, accompanied by Kara Hafiz Effendi and a Secretary, to examine into the state of the Aidos Achiato Balkan.

After passing through several villages, and collecting information from Christians and Turks, the Prefect stopped at Kalgametch, and Hafiz Effendi rode on to another village, also Mussulman, where the now well-known Choban Hassan is staying; Choban Hassan immediately accepted the invitation to come with Hafiz Effendi to Kalgametch, and was then introduced to the Prefect.

During the interview Choban Hassan denied that he had ever committed either robbery or murder, but that, if militia or gendarmes were sent to arrest him, he, having a safe-conduct delivered by Kara Hafiz Effendi, would escape to the hills without firing a shot; on the other hand, if he were attacked by armed Bulgarian peasants, he would defend himself to the last.

He also expressed his willingness to appear at Bourgas when summoned, if, on the road, his life could be guaranteed. The Prefect, who tells me that the personal impression made on him by Hassan was a favourable one, advised him to go on with his sowing, and renewed his safe-conduct until instructions should be received from Philippopli.

On the following day news was brought to Kalgametch that twenty gendarmes and forty armed peasants had crossed the frontier from Bulgaria, and were then in the Bulgarian village of Erketch belonging to this province. The Prefect and his suite immediately rode there, and inquired the reason of such a violation of the frontier. The answer given was insolent—"That Turks had killed seven Bulgarians at Chali Mahallé (on the Kamtchik River, 15 miles within the boundaries of Bulgaria), and, as Choban Hassan was accused, they had orders to take him when and where they found him; moreover, if they could chance upon a certain Kara Hafiz Effendi, they would shoot him on the spot." Kara Hafiz then told them that he was the man they wanted, and police and Bashi-Bazouks immediately surrounded the small party of the Prefect (who had only a single gendarme as escort), and covered them with their rifles, upon which the Prefect coolly told them "to beat their drums and begin the engagement, as his party had nothing to defend themselves with."

This conduct so imposed upon the armed force from Bulgaria that they recrossed the frontier, but the incident forced M. Economoff to forego the rest of his mountain journey, and proceed viâ Pravadi to Varna, there to complain of the violation of the Eastern Roumelian territory.

M. Economoff had, however, learnt enough to prove that the complaints by Turks of ill-treatment, &c., at the hands of their Bulgarian neighbours, were only too well founded, and he warned the latter of the probable consequences of such conduct being persevered in, and exacted written guarantees for the future from several Christian villages; he was everywhere joyfully received by the Mussulman population, and hopes "that his journey was productive of as much good as can be expected until the Bulgarian peasantry be disarmed."

There is no doubt, unfortunately, of the murder of seven Bulgarians at Chali Mahallé, but the evidence of the Bulgarian priests of Erketch and Soudjoulon proves a clear *alibi* for Choban Hassan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 98.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 313. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 29, 1879.*

WITH reference to the officers belonging to the Russian General Staff who are travelling to and fro in Roumania under the directions of Colonel Count Keller, an officer of Engineers, and an Aide-de-camp to the Emperor, to whom allusions were made in some of my previous despatches and in those of Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz, some particulars have come to my knowledge which are not without interest.

These officers have, among other subjects, been collecting information about the Danube, and they have even asked the Roumanian Government to delegate some of their officers for the purpose of assisting them in the prosecution of their inquiries on subjects connected with that river, but have received a courteous but evasive reply.

The only ostensible pretext for such a course that can be assigned would be a desire on the part of the Russian Cabinet to assist Bulgaria in determining the delimitation of the thalweg as the boundary of the two riverain States under the principle recorded, I believe, in the 33rd Protocol of the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 99.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 314. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 29, 1879.*

PROBABLY no State of the same dimensions in Europe attaches an equal degree of importance to every real or reported combination on the Continental chess-board as is done in Roumania.

The reason for this is not far to seek; the Danubian Principalities constituted an important element in the calculations of ambitious warriors for centuries; their acquisition was a matter of negotiation between Austria and Russia in the eighteenth, and between Napoleon and Alexander in the first part of the present century.

Even since the Treaty of Paris, Napoleon III has been credited with all kinds of vast plans in which the transfer of Roumania to one Empire or another was supposed to be included.

At that time the feeling of nationality was as yet but very feebly developed amongst these people, who were just emerging from a state of barbarism during which an oligarchy of corrupt and alien Boyards had kept them under its sway, only nominally controlled by a foreign Power.

Of late years the spread of education, railways, a free press, and Parliamentary institutions, and last, not least, the war of 1877, have contributed considerably to raise a large new class of individuals strongly attached to their nationality, and political ideas have extended widely and are no longer confined to the descendants of the old governing bodies, to whom they were formerly limited.

All these classes alike are extremely sensitive to all questions about foreign politics, which may, however, indirectly affect the east of Europe, and they imagine constantly that their own fate and destiny or future grandeur is hanging in the balance.

The intelligence of the conclusion of a still more intimate alliance between the Empires of Austria and Germany was at first hailed with great joy at Bucharest, but somehow or other this satisfaction is giving way to sentiments of mistrust and suspicion, artfully encouraged by the numerous partizans of Russia.

To this must be added the effect produced here by a variety of insinuations coming from French sources—Paris exercising still no small influence on Roumania—the nature of which points rather to pro-Russian sympathies and is unquestionably by no means friendly to Austria, not even to England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 100.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 318. Very Secret.)

Bucharest, December 2, 1879.

My Lord,

ROUMANIAN affairs are reaching a very critical point, which is being aggravated to no small extent by the Railway Bill now before the Chambers.

The manner in which that scheme is being pressed by the German Government, and coming, as it does, after the agitation which accompanied the Jewish emancipation, adds considerably to its unpopularity.

It is probable that the Ministers will succeed in carrying it, but every one who is at all conversant with what is passing behind the scenes must feel that Prince Charles and M. Bratiano, in yielding on this occasion to the paramount influence of Prince Bismarck, are assuming a degree of responsibility towards their countrymen which might ultimately have serious consequences.

Prince Charles is believed to have positive assurances from Berlin that, as soon as this question has been solved, Germany will no longer hesitate to treat him as an independent Sovereign.

Should, however, some fresh delay interpose, there can be no doubt that the Prince will be held personally responsible by his subjects for this new grievance, and that the course of events in this country may be greatly affected by it.

The financial losses which resulted from the contracts made by Roumania with Dr. Strousberg for these very lines in 1868 are still vividly remembered in the Principality. These were likewise strongly recommended from Berlin and personally supported by Prince Charles, who then, as now, had M. Bratiano as Prime Minister.

It is likewise apprehended, even should the Railway Bill be adopted in its present form, that further questions may arise as to its execution between this Government and the Berlin bankers, and every such opportunity will be welcomed by the numerous and influential opponents of this scheme for casting reproach on the Prince and his Ministers, who, it is publicly asserted, ought not to care so much for recognition, but to seek for more reliable allies.

Austria, as the intimate ally of Germany, comes in for its share of abuse as well as the Western Powers; and as soon as a reaction sets in against the supposed influence of Germany, Russia will have an opportunity she is anxiously waiting for to secure her own ends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 101.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 319. Secret.)

Bucharest, December 2, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Minister at St. Petersburgh, General Ghika, commonly known as Prince Ghika, has returned quite lately to his post.

Nothing positive is known, however, as to the precise date when the new Russian Envoy at this Court, Prince Ouroussoff, is likely to arrive.

There are, however, indications that Russia has thrown out numerous hints here of her desire to renew more friendly relations with Roumania, and especially how much value the Emperor attaches to securing the position of Arab-Tabia to Bulgaria, and it has been insinuated that Roumania would do wisely to abandon spontaneously her claims to that strategical point being included within her frontier.

Quite lately the Princess of Roumania, having had occasion to write a private letter to the Empress of Russia at Cannes, a suggestion came from Paris that Her Royal Highness might take advantage of this opportunity to solicit the friendship and goodwill of Russia for Roumania. The letter has been written and forwarded to Prince Orloff, who took charge of it, but I am assured that it contained no reference to politics.

The following is the substance of a sentence emanating from very high quarters in Russian diplomacy which has been conveyed to this Court through several important channels simultaneously:—

"Roumania must bear in mind that she is one of several links ("anneaux") forming

the chain of the Balkanic States; that these have been acquired at the expense of Russian blood and the bones of Russian soldiers; those who will not take their proper place must be crushed."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 102.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 780.)

Vienna, December 5, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my No. 768, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Austrian Consul-General at Galatz informs his Government, under date of the 27th ultimo, that in that portion of Bessarabia which was formerly Roumanian the Russian forces consisted merely of 800 Dragoons, 800 Lancers, 3,000 Frontier Guards, and 5,000 or 6,000 Customs Guards.

There is no question, therefore, so M. de Haan's Ismail informant states, of a serious concentration of troops, though it is somewhat remarkable that the greatest secrecy should be preserved as to military movements.

There is also nothing known in Ismail of a Government demand for all the corn supply; indeed, corn is freely sold publicly, and the fact that the price of rye has remained stationary while that of maize has risen proves there is no demand for the former.

The French Consul and the Prefect of Galatz have, he says, been instructed by their Governments to make inquiries on these reports, to which the English Consul appears to attach credence.

This Report of M. de Haan refers, as your Lordship sees, solely to Moldavian Bessarabia, while that of Consul Sanderson I understand to apply to the whole province of Bessarabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 103.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 781. Confidential.)

Vienna, December 5, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE tells me that Prince Alexander of Bulgaria is so much disheartened at the position in which he finds himself placed by the Constitution under which he has to govern the Principality, that he has serious thoughts of abandoning a hopeless task.

The revenue, moreover, which was estimated at about 24,000,000 fr., is found in reality to be only about 16,000,000 fr., of which 11,000,000 fr. are absorbed in military expenses, leaving a totally insufficient amount available for administrative purposes.

Baron Haymerle says that if the Prince were to leave it is impossible to foresee the successor that the Bulgarians might elect to succeed him; it might be Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff or it might be Aleko Pasha; but in any case a disturbance of the present state of things would be greatly to be deplored, and he is endeavouring to persuade Prince Alexander not to lose heart, but to rely upon the countenance which he believes all the European Governments are ready to give him in his difficult task.

His Excellency, however, strongly insists upon the absence of all necessity for squandering such an extravagant proportion of the revenues of the Principality in military outlay, and represents that if this useless expenditure were kept within proper bounds enough would remain for the administration of the country.

I said that I was sure Her Majesty's Government would greatly regret it if the Prince were to abdicate, and that His Highness might confidently count upon any support that it was in their power to give him; and I believed also that they would entirely concur with his Excellency as to the folly of squandering an insufficient revenue on military preparations for which there was no necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 104.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 783.)
Vienna, December 6, 1879.

My Lord,

IN several recent despatches Mr. White has entered at some length into the consequences that would be the result of the absorption of Roumania into Austria-Hungary.

I do not imagine Mr. White to suppose any such project to be entertained by this country, but the dangers attendant on its adoption, upon which he insists, are so apparent, that it would require some very unforeseen combination of circumstances before it could be thought of even in this portion of the monarchy, and without taking into account the insuperable objections that would be raised in Hungary.

The Imperial Government have done little to encourage the Roumanians to rely upon Austria for support, but there is no ground whatever for their being suspected of designs against the independence of the Principality; and, in spite of their apparent apathy, I have no doubt of their sincere desire of seeing that independence maintained and strengthened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 784. Confidential.)
Vienna, December 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE inquired of Baron Haymerle the view he took of the present position of the Greek Frontier question.

He said that he regarded the last proposals of the Turks and of the Greeks as equally inacceptable, but it had been more or less understood that the initiative in suggesting the course to be followed upon this question should be left to the French Government, and he would wait to see whether any suggestion in reference to it was made from Paris.

To an observation that I made of there being at Constantinople the appearance of a disposition to negotiate on the basis of the De Gubernatis proposal, he replied that this would, in his opinion, be too wide a departure from the views of the Congress of Berlin; and upon my remarking that provided the two parties interested could come to an agreement the other Powers would not be likely to object, he said that he should not like the arrangement. It was not, he thought, probable that Epirus, if now left to Turkey, would be content long to remain under the Porte, and if it were to endeavour to throw off its allegiance to the Sultan its acquisition would probably be coveted by another Power, whose extension in those quarters would not be to the interest of Austria. He would like to see any danger of this kind averted by carrying out the annexation to Greece of that portion of Epirus which the Congress had proposed to assign to her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 106.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, December 9.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 8 Décembre, 1879.

AUX termes de l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin, une Commission Turco-Serbe devait être chargée de régler, dans un délai de trois années, toutes les affaires relatives au mode d'aliénation, d'exploitation, ou d'usage, pour le compte de la Sublime Porte, des propriétés de l'Etat et des fondations pieuses situées dans les territoires annexés à la Serbie, ainsi que les questions relatives aux intérêts des particuliers qui pourraient s'y être engagés.

En exécution de cette clause, la Sublime Porte a désigné son Délégué qui s'est déjà rendu en Serbie. Cependant, le Gouvernement Princier retarde la nomination de son Commissaire et ne semble pas même disposé à le désigner prochainement. Ainsi les

démarches itératives de notre Ministre à Belgrade pour engager le Gouvernement Serbe à hâter la réunion de cette Commission sont toutes restées sans résultat.

En présence de cette situation, je vous prie de vouloir bien faire des démarches auprès de son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour l'amener à exercer une pression sur le Gouvernement Serbe en vue de la mise à exécution de la clause dont il s'agit sans plus de retard.

No. 107.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 774.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, December 8, 1879.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me confidentially that Moukhtar Pasha is still at Prisrend, and that he has entered into negotiations with the principal Albanian Chiefs of Jacova and Ipek, with the object of obtaining the surrender of Gussinjé without bloodshed, and that he is in hopes of succeeding. The Porte has telegraphed to him commending his prudence and patriotism, but urging him not to lose time in occupying the district.

No. 108.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9, 6 P.M.)

(Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Bucharest, December 9, 1879, 1 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, there is much reason to fear German Minister for Foreign Affairs will delay formal recognition so long as the details of Railway Bill have not been entirely adopted by Legislature here. As that subject has no possible connection with international obligations of Roumania, further joint procrastination looks invidious and lowers the moral character of the two other Powers as making recognition to depend on altogether different issue.

No. 109.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 140. Political.)
Scutari, November 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE day before yesterday the Mussulman inhabitants of Scutari, after a public meeting, intimated to the Governor-General that both the new legal functionaries and the new Judicial Regulations had met with their disapproval; and to-day, after a second meeting, they sent and informed Ali Haïdar Pasha that the persons selected by them must be substituted by him as members for the Local Councils in the place of those appointed by the Porte.

The increasing growth of disaffection among the Mussulmans against all the Ottoman authorities ought not to be much longer disregarded by the Central Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 110.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 141. Political.)
Scutari, November 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE report which has reached this from Constantinople that conflicts have occurred at Gussinjé is not confirmed, although the secret dispatch of ammunition and volunteers is still tolerated.

I have not yet been able to see Khalid Bey to ascertain from him what explanations he is prepared to furnish to the Montenegrin Government on these matters.

M. le Rée, the French Consul, has been instructed to proceed to Cettinjé to urge Prince Nicholas to act with moderation and patience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 111.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 142. Political. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November 2, 1879.*

IN a conversation I had this morning with Khalid Bey, his Excellency told me that it is entirely out of the power of the Porte to deliver over Gussinjé to the Montenegrin Government, and that all it can do is to endeavour to influence the natives by good advice and other means to be tractable and not offer resistance at the critical moment. Khalid Bey's private opinion is that Prince Nicholas had much better be allowed to seize the place without further delay.

I have thought it better to accompany to-morrow the Turkish Minister to Cettinjé, as my absence from Montenegro might prevent his Excellency from securing the extension of time which the Porte desires to obtain for the surrender of Gussinjé. My French colleague is also proceeding to Cettinjé for the same purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 112.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 145. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have ascertained from Prince Nicholas that no event, other than the decapitation of a Montenegrin in an Albanian district about fifteen days ago, has occurred to justify the assertion that hostilities have commenced at Gussinjé-Plava.

I have also been informed by the Prince that he has no intention of showing undue haste in obtaining possession of Gussinjé, as he has learnt, through the Austrian Minister Resident, that the Porte has directed the Governors-General of the Vilayets of Scutari and Kossovo and Moukhtar Pasha to proceed to that place for the purpose of delivering it over quietly to Montenegro. General Bojo Petrovich has already been appointed to work in concert, to this end, with the Turkish authorities.

I trust the Porte will be strongly impressed with the necessity of disregarding the empty boast of the Albanians that they can and will oppose the surrender of Gussinjé, and do everything in its power to avoid the risk of exhausting the patience of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 113.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 147. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 7, 1879.*

KHALID BEY, the Turkish Envoy, tells me that he has been much pleased with his reception by Prince Nicholas, and that His Highness did not refuse to listen to his Excellency's explanations of the obstacles in the way of the Porte in the matter of the delivery of Gussinjé-Plava. The Prince said he would avoid resorting to force, but that, at the same time, he trusted the Turkish Government would understand the necessity

of a speedy surrender of the district as Montenegro cannot incur for long the expense of keeping a large body of men under arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 114.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 150. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 9, 1879.*

AT the request of Khalid Bey, who has not yet received his cyphers from his Government, I, this morning, telegraphed the following, in his Excellency's name, to Sir Henry Layard, for transmission to the Porte:—

"Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, and I were yesterday evening desired to attend on Prince Nicholas, who announced to us that the responsibility of much bloodshed and other hostile acts would be incurred by the Imperial Government if Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha failed to surrender Gussinjé-Plava to Montenegro within ten days.

"In reply to our representations that a longer term was absolutely necessary, and that undue precipitation on the part of Montenegro would be unfavourably viewed by Europe, His Highness said that he could consent to no greater delay as he was forced to study the wishes of his people.

"Although we rejected the attempt to place the responsibility of the situation on our respective Governments, there can be no doubt that the Sublime Porte should exert itself to smooth away the present complications as advantage could then be derived through the Prince's personal favourable inclinations."

The following postscript was added also at the request of Khalid Bey:—

"We have this moment been informed by Prince Nicholas that we are not to consider that he has fixed a precise date for the delay he will accord, but that, on the other hand, he holds himself free to prepare and act against Gussinjé when and how he may deem expedient."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 115.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 151. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, November 9, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150, Political, of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that Prince Nicholas was evidently most favourably impressed by Khalid Bey's bearing when His Highness attempted to intimidate him by threats of using force against Gussinjé.

I am convinced, if Khalid Bey's able conduct is seconded by the Porte, his Excellency will find no difficulty in averting any hasty action on the side of Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 116.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 155. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinje, November 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a note has this day been addressed to me by Voivoda Verbitza, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the surrender of Gussinjé, and that his Excellency informs me in it that General Bozo Petrovich will be dispatched, with an adequate force, fifteen days from the present date, to the neighbourhood of Gussinjé, to receive that town at the hands of Moukhtar Pasha.

I am not of opinion that Voivoda Verbitza's note at all alters the communication made to me by Prince Nicholas on the 9th instant, and reported in my despatch No. 150, Political, of that day; I therefore purpose returning to Scutari to-morrow.

The report that hostilities have already occurred at Gussinjé is most formally denied by Prince Nicholas, who assures me that not a shot has been fired even by his outpost sentinels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 117.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 158. Political.)
Scutari, November 15, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's inquiries of the 14th instant, I have the honour to confirm my Report No. 155, Political, of the 11th instant, stating that no fighting whatever has occurred near Gussinjé. Two English travellers who were close to that place, on the Turkish side of the frontier, the day before yesterday, also state that no encounters have taken place, but the Chief, Ali Bey, had announced that he had determined to attack the Montenegrins on Saturday (to-day).

I strongly advise the Porte to lose no time in unravelling groundless reports, and to hasten its measures for preventing the Albanian Mussulmans from commencing a useless struggle with Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 118.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10.)

(Telegraphic.)
Sophia, December 9, 1879.

FOLLOWING is the composition of new Ministry:—

Macheivitch, Finance and, *ad interim*, Foreign Affairs; Grecoff, Justice and, *ad interim*, Interior; Bishop Klement, President of Council and Public Instruction; General Parenzoff remains at War Office.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 119.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, December 9, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 77.

Italian Government have assured German Government that they have recognized Roumania in principle, and intend to withhold Italian Minister's credentials until three other Powers are equally ready. French Government have promised to wait and not separate their strength from the German Government.

German Government will not recognize until Roumanian Railway question is settled, which may prove another three weeks or more.

No. 120.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, December 9, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 79.

M. Radowitz has just called to say Prince Bismarck entirely agrees with your Lordship in that the three Powers ought to recognize Roumania simultaneously, and he earnestly hopes Her Majesty's Government will not object to wait until Germany is ready, which cannot be until Roumanian Railway question is settled.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10, 2 P.M.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, December 10, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Government have signified at St. Petersburgh their readiness to agree to Russian proposal for having Reports of Technical Commission on the Danube Bridge submitted to Ambassadors at Constantinople to be formally registered, but only on the express condition of it being understood that Arab-Tabia belongs to Roumania. Italian Government have accepted the Russian proposal without this condition.

No. 122.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, December 10, 1879, 2·6 P.M.

THE German Government having been informed that the Roumanian Government announces that England is about to follow the example of Italy, and, separating herself from France and Germany, independently recognize Roumania, M. Radowitz called here this morning to say that Prince Bismarck, knowing through Count Münster that these insinuations are unfounded, would be very much indebted to Her Majesty's Government if your Lordship would let the Roumanian Government know that England has not really separated herself from France and Germany, and still intends to act in concert with them in regard to Roumania.

A hint in this sense would, in Prince Bismarck's opinion, have a very beneficial effect at Bucharest.

No. 123.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Dufferin.

(No. 662.)
Foreign Office, December 10, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch to Mr. Plunkett No. 606 of the 12th ultimo I have forwarded a copy of a letter from General Sir Lintorn Simmons containing observations as to the future proceedings of the Commission for settling the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia.

Sir L. Simmons' previous letter upon the same subject, and Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke's remarks thereupon, will be found as inclosures respectively in my despatches to Mr. Plunkett and your Excellency No. 521 of the 17th September and No. 571 of the 15th October.

I should wish that, in any further communications which your Excellency may have with the Russian Government upon this subject, you should be guided by the considerations put forward in Sir L. Simmons' letters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 124.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 1213.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 10, 1879.*

YESTERDAY, in execution of the telegraphic instructions which I had received from your Lordship, I spoke to M. Waddington of the official recognition of Roumania by Italy, and asked him what course the French Government proposed to take.

M. Waddington said that a short time before the Italian recognition Baron Marochetti, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires here, had given him assurances that Italy would act in concert with France in the matter. When, therefore, last week Baron Marochetti had come to announce to him that Italy had already recognized Roumania, he had received the intelligence with marked coldness, and had expressed no small surprise at the precipitate action of the Italian Government. He had also directed the French Ambassador at Rome to express surprise and dissatisfaction to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. Waddington went on to say that the result had been that the Italian Government had let him know that they had sent instructions to Count Tornielli to suspend the presentation of his letters of credence at Bucharest. M. Waddington did not know whether these instructions had arrived in time, nor what Count Tornielli had actually done.

M. Waddington proceeded to tell me that he had informed the German Government that France would not separate her action in the matter from that of Germany and England, but that he thought the recognition of Roumania by the three Powers should not be delayed.

I informed M. Waddington that, on your part, your Lordship had told the German Ambassador in London that Her Majesty's Government considered that England, Germany, and France ought to recognize Roumania simultaneously, whenever they did recognize her, and had added that it was desirable not to delay much longer.

M. Waddington answered that he was glad to find himself in complete accordance with your Lordship on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 125.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, December 10, 1879.*

CHAMBER voted last night Railway Purchase Bill *nem. con.* Opposition absented itself.

No. 126.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 11, 1879, 3·15 P.M.*

YOURS of December 9.

(Secret.)

Her Majesty's Government cannot act seperately from their allies in the matter of the recognition of Roumania. Having gone with Germany so far upon this question, it would not be consistent with the public interest that we should now conspicuously separate our policy from hers.

If asked, you should say the three Western Powers intend to act together.

No. 127.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 11, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 779.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 11, 1879, 2·40 P.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Minister states that Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informed him yesterday that Mukhtar Pasha was still at Prisrend, that he found it impossible to give over Gussinjé to Montenegro, and that, as the time fixed for its surrender expires to-morrow, Montenegro must come and [? take] it.

Montenegrin Minister states that the Prince has sent a large force against the district, and will now take forcible possession of it.

(Repeated to Mr. Green.)

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 11, 1879, 6·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 84, I have held invariably the language that England would act with the other Western Powers in respect to the recognition of Roumania.

I have again instructed Mr. White to use the same language; but he cannot have held any other, for he is well acquainted with our policy in the matter. At the same time, it is desirable the German Government should haste in its decision as much as possible, as we may lose commercial advantages by the delay.

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1468.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 11, 1879.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 1020 of the 23rd ultimo reporting that the Commission which was appointed by the Sultan to draw up a scheme for the reorganization of the Turkish army had completed its task.

In reply, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice offered by you to the Sultan in your conversation with His Majesty upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1472.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 11, 1879.*

YOUR action in calling the attention of the Porte to the accounts furnished by Mr. Michell regarding the alleged ill-treatment of the Bulgarian inhabitants of Elishnitza by the Turkish local authorities meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 145. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 11, 1879.*

I HAVE had under my consideration the observations made in your telegram of the 9th instant relative to the hesitation on the part of the three Western Powers to proceed to the formal recognition of the Principality of Roumania.

In reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government cannot act separately from their allies in this matter. Having so far gone with Germany upon this question, it would not be consistent with the public interest that they should now conspicuously adopt a different policy.

Should you be asked any questions with regard to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, you should say that the three Western Powers intend to act together as to the recognition of Roumania.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 199.) *Vienna, December* 11, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 198, Baron Calice tells me that I must have misunderstood Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs when I supposed him to have said that an answer had been sent to Russian Government about referring the Report of the Danube Bridge Technical Commission to the Ambassadors.

Italian Government have, as I stated, accepted the proposals, but no answer has been as yet sent from here.

No. 133.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 628.) *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1879.
My Lord,

YOUR Excellency stated, in your telegram No. 84 of the 10th instant, that Prince Bismarck thought that a beneficial effect might be produced at Bucharest if Her Majesty's Representative were to be instructed to state that there was no foundation for the assertion that England intended to recognize the independence of Roumania without reference to the decisions of France and Germany.

I have authorized you by telegraph to say, in reply, that I have invariably held the language that, in respect to the recognition of Roumanian independence, England would act in concert with the other two Western Powers. I informed you at the same time that Mr. White had been again instructed to use this language, but I observed that it was impossible that he could have held any other language, as he was thoroughly acquainted with the policy of Her Majesty's Government with reference to this question. I added that it was desirable that the German Government should arrive at a final decision on the point as soon as possible, as the result of delay might be the loss of commercial advantages from which the Western Powers might be shut out to the detriment of their trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 134.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 385.) *Athens, December* 1, 1879.
My Lord,

THE law against brigandage, which, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 276 of the 27th instant, has been again put into force, is declared by Royal Decree, dated the 10th November, to be operative for eight months from that date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 135.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 288.) *Athens, December* 2, 1879.
My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 251 of the 22nd October last, I have the honour to report that the brigand Spanos Vangheli was put on his trial on the 29th ultimo at Athens, and condemned to death the next day; the sentence to be executed at Livadia, the theatre of his crimes.

He was accused—

1. Of having carried to the mountains near Thebes a certain P. Conoi, from whom he exacted a ransom of 11,000 dollars.

2. Of having robbed some carters near the same place.

3. Of having at Kaki-Scala attacked forty men and women of the village of Kyriaki, near Livadia, of having killed two of them with his own hands, leaving their heads by the road-side.

His defender objected to his being tried, firstly, on the ground that he had been arrested on Ottoman territory; and, secondly, because he had been amnestied by the Porte.

These objections were overruled by the Court.

He was suspected of having been concerned indirectly in the murder of the English travellers near Oropos in 1870, but no allusion was made to this during the trial; his proved crimes having been sufficient to secure his condemnation.

The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires tells me that, although he informed his Government some time ago that the trial of Spanos was about to take place, he had received no instructions in regard to claiming his extradition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 136.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 464.) *Rome, December* 8, 1879.
My Lord,

HAVING been informed that M. Esarco, the Diplomatic Agent of Roumania, had on Friday the 5th instant made a communication to the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the future position and rights of the Jews, which his Excellency had declared to be perfectly satisfactory, adding that Count Tornielli's letters of credence would in consequence immediately be sent to him, I called in the afternoon of the 6th on M. Malvano, the Director of the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Count Maffei being now absent from Rome) to inquire whether the information I had received were correct.

M. Malvano confirmed it, and gave me the accompanying copy of the communication made by M. Esarco, which, he said, appeared to him to concede everything which had been demanded of the Roumanian Government, and indeed almost exceeded what might have been expected. This remark I understood to apply to the third paragraph. M. Malvano added that a telegram embodying the communication had immediately been sent to General Menabrea and to the Representatives of Italy at the other great Courts, with instructions to make it known to the respective Governments, together with the decision which the Italian Government had taken thereupon.

In an interview which I had with M. Cairoli yesterday his Excellency expressed himself to the same effect in regard to the document in question. It appeared to him to cover all the necessities of the case, and to give every guarantee which could under present circumstances be reasonably demanded, and to respond entirely to the demands which, since the voting of the law by the Roumanian Parliament, had been put forward by the Powers. The Italian Government, his Excellency said, had been very urgent in pushing these demands, and upon their being complied with, as they had now fully been in his opinion, they could no longer delay in fulfilling their own part of the bargain, and he had, therefore, felt bound to inform the Roumanian Agent at once that Count Tornielli would be immediately accredited to Bucharest, but in reply to an observation I made to the effect that I had understood that the Italian Government did not intend to take any decided step without consultation with the other Powers, his Excellency stated that Count Tornielli's

credentials would not be sent to him for six or seven days, so that, should England and the other Powers take the same view as the Italian Government of the Roumanian declaration, and decide thereupon to accredit Ministers to Bucharest, there would be time for them to furnish their Representatives with credentials, so that the official recognition by all Powers which had hitherto held back might be made at the same time.

His Excellency added that General Menabrea had been immediately instructed to communicate with your Lordship on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Note Verbale.

L'ARTICLE 7 de la Constitution Roumaine, sanctionnant le principe de l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin, a ouvert aux Israélites l'accès au droit de cité et abrogé toutes les lois existantes contraires à ce principe.

L'observation du nouveau principe continuera sincère et loyale. Les pouvoirs organiques s'appliqueront à en assurer le respect et en poursuivre l'application pour arriver, comme conséquence, à une assimilation de plus en plus complète des Israélites, ainsi qu'à la suppression du régime restrictif qu'on vient d'établir, à l'égard des étrangers, pour la propriété rurale.

En attendant, tous les Israélites résidant dans le pays auront, au point de vue du droit civil privé, une position juridique assurée, sans avoir à craindre d'être sujets à des mesures administratives arbitraires, ou à des lois exceptionnelles pour cause de confession ou de religion.

Il est bien entendu que tous les étrangers appartenant à une nationalité déterminée auront pleine égalité de traitement, sans aucune distinction à raison de leur religion particulière.

Rome, le 5 Décembre, 1879.

No. 137.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 465.)
My Lord, *Rome, December* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Italie," giving the substance of the reply of the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to a question addressed to him yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies relative to the recognition of Roumania by Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Extract from "l'Italie" of December 9, 1879.

M. MAURIGI interroge le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères au sujet de la reconnaissance de la Roumanie par l'Italie, et sur les conditions auxquelles cette reconnaissance a eu lieu.

M. Cairoli, Président du Conseil et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, répond que l'Italie a reconnu la Roumanie et est heureuse que cet Etat, digne de l'indépendance, sache, dans l'organisation de sa constitution intérieure, se plier aux exigences de la civilisation.

L'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin imposait au Gouvernement Roumain l'obligation d'accorder aux Israélites résidant dans cet Etat l'égalité des droits civils et politiques.

L'Article 7 de la Constitution Roumaine limitait la possibilité d'observer cette condition sanctionnée par les Puissances signataires.

En effet, le principe de l'égalité y était contenu, mais il n'était pas absolu par

suite des restrictions y annexées et qui ont motivé le retard apporté par l'Italie à la reconnaissance de la Roumanie. Avant de reconnaître la Roumanie, le Gouvernement Italien a donc voulu certaines déclarations en ce qui concerne l'Article 7 et ces déclarations ont été larges et de nature à faire cesser toutes les hésitations.

Le Président du Conseil fait donc des vœux pour que le nouvel Etat se montre conséquent avec ces déclarations, prenne un développement favorable à la civilisation et aux principes fondamentaux de la société moderne.

M. Maurigi se déclare satisfait.

No. 138.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 1216.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1175 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington repeated to me yesterday that he thought that a basis for exercising the mediation of the Powers in the question of the Greco-Turkish frontier might be found in the definition given by the Porte of the line which, in its opinion, was in conformity with that specified in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin. He had, he said, had this line carefully traced out, and had found that in Epirus at least it differed very little from that described in the despatch from your Lordship to Sir Henry Layard of the 12th June last, which had appeared in the Blue Book. It passed about 15 or 20 miles to the south of Joannina, and would therefore be nearly the same as a line following the southern limit of the sandjak which took its name from that city. It was true that the Turks declared that their definition of the line was simply "theoretical or academical," still the fact of their having defined it as they had would facilitate the task of the mediators.

M. Waddington added that he should probably, in a short time, be in a position to ask the Powers to enter upon the mediation. A question which would then have to be settled would be the place at which the proceedings should be carried on. There seemed, M. Waddington said in conclusion, to be serious objections to Constantinople, and he understood the Ambassadors there were very little inclined to undertake the task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 139.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13.)

(No. 780.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 779 of yesterday, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated to me that Montenegrin Minister has misrepresented or misunderstood his communication about Gussinjé. What he said was that Moukhtar Pasha was making arrangements which there was every hope would lead to the surrender of the district to Montenegro without bloodshed, but that it was impossible to effect surrender by the 12th of this month, the day fixed by the Prince, and that if His Highness was determined to obtain it by that date he must use force upon his own responsibility.

His Excellency further stated that he is about to send a Circular to the Representatives of the Great Powers fully explaining the [? state of] affairs, and that the best proof of the sincerity of the Porte is that Moukhtar Pasha has sent for eight more battalions to add to the force which he will use against Gussinjé should the Albanians refuse to surrender it.

His Excellency added that if the Montenegrins attacked Gussinjé, Moukhtar Pasha could not answer for his troops not siding with the Albanians, and that Russian Chargé d'Affaires had told him that Russian Government is satisfied that the Porte is acting in good faith in this question.

No. 140.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13, 1·15 P.M.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, December* 13, 1879, *noon.*

GERMAN Government appears unable to bring about the purchase of the railways by Roumania. The Berlin bankers object to the insertion of the clause transferring the seat of the Company to Bucharest, whilst all parties in both Chambers have agreed to consider the sale without such clause as unacceptable.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 13, 10·15 P.M.)

(No. 781. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 13, 1879, 8·10 P.M.

A POLE has informed Mr. Stephen that he believes, from information received from a secret society at Rome, that certain Russian engineers are going to Egypt instructed to report on the best means of stopping the navigation of the Suez Canal; two—one a German of the name of Dollinger—are believed to be already there. He has also been informed that the Russian Government intend to send to Suez next spring two vessels belonging to the volunteer fleet, with torpedoes and mining material for the destruction in certain eventualities of the navigation canal.

(Repeated to Mr. Malet.)

No. 142.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 308.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1879, 10·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1272 of the 16th October, what has been done by the Porte relative to the Firman confiding the administration of the Somali coast to the Khedive?

No. 143.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 663.) *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1879.

Sir,

M. BARTHOLOMEI informs me that the Porte professes itself unable to surrender Gussinjé-l'hava to Montenegro, on the ground that the troops with Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha would desert to the side of the Albanians if called upon to act; and he urged that an identic note should be addressed to the Porte by the foreign Representative at Constantinople pressing it to fulfil its Treaty obligations.

I replied that, according to the latest information which had reached Her Majesty's Government, and which appeared to be two or three days later than his own, the Porte disclaimed any such interpretation of its intentions, and professed a resolution to carry out its Treaty obligations if sufficient time for judicious dealing with the Albanians were given.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 144.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14, 5 P.M.)

(No. 782.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December* 14, 1879, 12·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 308, I am incessantly pressing for Firman about Somali. I am promised that a special Council shall be held this week to settle this and other questions pending between the Embassy and the Porte.

No. 145.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 14, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 783.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December* 14, 1879, 2·20 P.M.

BAKER PASHA wishes Chermside to accompany him on his mission. I think that there would be great advantage in his doing so, but I have told Chermside that he must consult Colonel Wilson.

No. 146.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, December* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a native Administrative Council has lately been formed here. It consists of twelve members—Mussulmans, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians, in equal numbers—from different parts of the province, all nominees of the Government, and unpaid. This Council will be simply deliberative and consultative, and will have no executive power. It will assemble at Serajevo at least once every month, and either His Royal Highness the Duke of Wurtemberg or his Adlatus, General Dahlen, will preside at the sittings. Unfortunately, neither of these functionaries are acquainted with the language of the country, otherwise much good might result from a free exposition and discussion of the wants and wishes of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 147.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, December* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the relations between the Mussulman landlords and their Christian tenants in these provinces continue to be most unsatisfactory. The Austrian authorities, I really believe, endeavour to treat both parties with impartial justice, but this does not satisfy the Christians; their idea of justice would be freedom from payment of any kind to their landlords, and anything short of this they seem to regard as favoritism to the Mussulmans. This is, perhaps, hardly surprising, as, for many years past, proprietorship for the Christians of the soil they cultivate has been the theme of all foreign agitators, whether Austrian, Russian, or Servian, and the Austrians are now reaping the result of this policy in their present difficulties.

A most painful occurrence which happened here last week forcibly illustrates the state of feeling existing between landowner and peasant—"aga" and "kmet," as they are called in this country. A certain kmet named Nikolić not having paid his aga, Mustafa Natić, anything during the previous year on account of the "tretina," or third part of the agricultural produce due to the owners of the soil, was summoned about two months ago to appear before the Austrian Kaimakam, or Bezirkshauptmann, of Serajevo. Accounts were gone into and the sum fixed which was to be paid in lieu of tretina. Half the sum was to be paid after harvest operations were completed and the remainder next spring.

The aga not being able to obtain payment at the appointed time, again applied to th authorities, and Nikolić was summoned to reappear before the Kaïmakam. On the day fixed, Monday, the 24th ultimo, both aga and kmet were waiting their turn with others in the corridor of the residence of the Kaïmakam, when the latter, happening to come out of his room and recognize Nikolić, said to him, "Why have you not paid your debt to your aga?" "Must I pay?" he responded. "Certainly," replied the Kaïmakam. "Then I will pay it at once," said the kmet, and, drawing a knife from his belt, stabbed Mustafa Nalić to the heart, killing him on the spot. He made no attempt to escape after the deed, and was immediately arrested. On Saturday last he was tried by Court-martial, was condemned to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, and was shot within three hours of the sentence being passed, as required by the Austrian regulations. This affair caused some excitement here, and the prompt execution of justice will, I believe, have a very salutary effect in the country. In the Herzegovina the agas do not venture near their possessions from fear of violence from their kmets; and in Bosnia, not even excepting the neighbourhood of this town, no Turkish landlord will go alone or unarmed amongst his peasants.

I have discussed with many natives this agrarian difficulty, and the opinion seems to be universal that nothing will content the Christians but becoming absolute owners of the land they cultivate. This is of course out of the question, without gross injustice to the Mussulmans. These latter, it is true, would be very glad to sell their land at a fair valuation, and be free from the present annoyances of an unprofitable proprietorship, but the peasants in very few instances have the requisite means to purchase, and even had they the means, paying for the land would not be an arrangement that would suit their views. There are large tracts of unreclaimed land in Bosnia which the Government may eventually be able to give to the Christians, but this cannot be done till a proper cadastral survey of the country has been made, and the ownership of the land more clearly demonstrated than at present. Such a survey will, it is said, be commenced in the spring, but it is calculated that with a staff of 200 employés it will require four years to complete it, and, in the meantime, it is imperative to find some *modus vivendi* acceptable alike to aga and kmet. Besides, it is very doubtful whether any such distribution of uncleared land would even satisfy the Christians, who seem bent on becoming proprietors of their present holdings. The Mussulmans, there is little doubt, would be very glad to be quit of all their Bosniac kmets, as they would have no difficulty in procuring European colonists, especially from Carinthia and even Germany, to cultivate their lands on terms quite as advantageous as existing ones, and without the present disagreeable concomitants. The terms on which the peasants actually hold the land can hardly be considered onerous. They in most cases give the labour, cattle, and seed, the land alone belonging to the aga. At harvest time, after deduction of the seed, and after payment of the Government tithe, the remaining produce is divided into three parts, of which the owner of the soil takes one and the peasant the other two. This is the most usual arrangement, but subject to certain modifications. Sometimes the landowner gives everything but the labour, and then takes half the produce, while, again, where the soil is very poor, he takes but a quarter; but all this is matter of agreement between kmet and aga. Were a yearly fixed but moderate rent in money substituted for a share of the produce, there would be little ground for further dispute. This also would be an arrangement acceptable to the Mussulman owner, but not so, I fear, to the Christian peasant, to whom, I acknowledge, it would perhaps be rather onerous in remote districts, where no ready market is available for agricultural produce. Besides, as I have already stated, nothing, I believe, will really satisfy the Christians short of completely ousting their Mussulman landlords.

The law at present in force in this country regulating the relations of aga and kmet is the Turkish law of the 14th Sefer, 1276 (February 1859), drawn up especially for Bosnia and the Herzegovina. As I cannot discover by the archives of this Consulate that this law has ever been communicated to the Foreign Office, I beg to inclose herein, for your Lordship's information, a French translation of the same. I need hardly say that, under the Turkish régime, it was almost a dead letter. It is the basis on which the Austrian authorities settle all present disputes, and, since the occupation, they have repeatedly notified both to landlords and peasants the necessity of drawing up written agreements as stated therein. Very few such agreements have, however, so far been made, objection to them being almost invariably on the side of the Christian, and the Austrian authorities do not seem disposed to exact a rigorous compliance with the law in this respect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 147.

Turkish Regulation of the 14th Sefer, 1276, fixing the Relations between Landowners and Peasants in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

(Traduction.)

Article 1er.—*Pour le Sandjak de Serajevo.*

§ 1. LE système du tiers étant adopté dans la plupart des localités et le métayage que dans peu d'entre elles, les relations agraires qui avaient existé *ab antiquo* entre les seigneurs et les fermiers resteront en vigueur comme jusqu'ici.

§ 2. Mais dans les localités où jusqu'à présent la moitié de la récolte des fruits revenait au seigneur, dorénavant il ne lui en appartiendra qu'un tiers, les deux autres restant au fermier.

§ 3. La construction de nouvelles bâtisses de fermiers, et la réparation de celles endommagées devra toujours être à la charge des seigneurs. Mais les bâtisses construites par les fermiers, et formant leur propriété, devront être réparées par les fermiers jusqu'à ce qu'elles ne soient pas remplacées par de nouvelles, et si pendant ce temps elles réclament des réparations.

§ 4. A l'avenir, comme jusqu'ici, il sera sévèrement défendu aux seigneurs d'employer les fermiers à de petits ou de grands services sans les payer.

§ 5. Dans les terres affermées selon le système de métayage un changement des conditions convenues ne saurait avoir lieu: néanmoins les clauses relatives aux bâtisses et à la défense d'exiger des services gratuits seront appliquées aux terres affermées selon le système de métayage de la même façon qu'à celles affermées du tiers.

Article 2.—*Pour le Sandjak de Travnik.*

§ 1. Le système de tiers étant adopté dans la plupart des localités et celui du quart et du cinquième dans peu d'endroits, les relations agraires qui avaient existé *ab antiquo* entre les seigneurs et les fermiers resteront en vigueur comme jusqu'ici.

§ 2. (Idem, Article 1, § 2.)

§ 3. Dans les terres où la construction de nouvelles bâtisses de fermiers et la réparation de celles endommagées étaient tantôt à la charge du propriétaire tantôt à celle du fermier, dorénavant ces travaux seront entrepris par le propriétaire, mais les bâtisses construites par les fermiers, et formant leur propriété, devront être réparées par les fermiers jusqu'à ce qu'elles ne soient pas remplacées par de nouvelles, et si pendant ce temps elles réclament des réparations.

§ 4. (Idem, Article 1, § 64.)

§ 5. Dans les terres affermées selon le système du quart et du cinquième un changement des conditions convenues ne saurait avoir lieu. Quant aux stipulations au profit des seigneurs en vertu desquelles ils ont droit d'employer les fermiers à des différents services, il n'en restera en vigueur que celle qui oblige les fermiers de porter aux domiciles des seigneurs, ou au marché, leurs parts de récoltes, et d'exécuter quelques travaux champêtres dans leurs champs, jardins, et vignobles.

§ 6. En dehors de cela ils ne peuvent être employés à aucun service convenu ou non-convenu sans être payés.

Article 3.—*Pour les Sandjaks de Banjaluka et Bihac.*

§ 1. Le système du tiers étant adopté sans exception, les relations agraires ayant existé *ab antiquo* entre les seigneurs et les fermiers, resteront en vigueur comme jusqu'ici.

§ 2. Mais quant aux légumes de toute espèce dont il revenait jusqu'ici aux seigneurs le tiers de la récolte, dorénavant il ne leur en appartiendra qu'un quart, les trois autres restant aux fermiers.

Article 4.—*Pour le Sandjak de Svornik.*

§ 1. (Idem, Article 3, § 1.)

§ 2. Mais l'usage existant dans quatre arrondissements selon lequel un tiers de la récolte de foin appartient aux seigneurs et les deux autres restent aux fermiers, sera appliqué à tous les arrondissements où jusqu'ici la moitié de la récolte de foin appartenait aux seigneurs.

§ 3. (Idem, Article 2, § 3.)

§ 4. (Idem, Article 1, § 4.)

Article 5.—*Pour le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar.*

§ 1. Le système du quart étant adopté sans exception, les relations agraires ayant existé *ab antiquo* entre les seigneurs et les fermiers resteront en vigueur comme jusqu'ici. Quant aux stipulations au profit des seigneurs en vertu desquelles ils ont droit d'employer les fermiers à des différents services, il n'en restera en vigueur que celle que oblige les fermiers de porter aux domiciles des seigneurs, ou au marché, leurs parts de récolte.

§ 2. (Idem, Article 2, § 6.)

§ 3. (Idem, Article 2, § 3.)

Article 6.—*Pour le Sandjak de l'Herzégovine.*

§ 1. (Idem, Article 2, § 1.)

§ 2. Mais dans les terres affermées au système du tiers, où, suivant la coutume, une moitié des fruits et des légumes revenait au seigneur et l'autre au fermier, dorénavant, selon que le district produise plus de fruits ou de légumes, il reviendra un tiers de l'une ou de l'autre espèce de produits au seigneur, tandis que les deux autres tiers resteront au fermier. Par conséquent, si dans un district cette prescription est appliquée à l'une des espèces de produits l'ancienne coutume sera conservée quant à l'autre.

§ 3. (Idem, Article 2, § 3.)

§ 4. (Idem, Article 2, § 5.)

Article 7.—*Règlement Général.*

§ 1. Ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, dorénavant la construction de nouvelles bâtisses de fermiers et la réparation de celles endommagées doivent être toujours à la charge des seigneurs.

§ 2. Il se trouve bien des bâtisses construites par les fermiers mais réparées par les seigneurs. Il arrive que lorsque le fermier veut abandonner la bâtisse il réclame les frais de construction et le seigneur ceux de réparation. Le temps passe et il devient impossible de découvrir le vrai état de choses, et l'on arrive à des conflits innombrables. Par conséquent, lorsqu'il y a nécessité absolue de remplacer les bâtisses appartenant aux fermiers par de nouvelles, cela doit être fait par les seigneurs, mais jusque là les travaux de réparation devenus nécessaires doivent être à la charge des fermiers.

§ 3. Lorsque le fermier veut quitter la terre affermée pour passer à un autre, les bâtisses qui lui appartiennent doivent être examinées et prisées par l'autorité avec l'assistance de prud'hommes. Le seigneur est tenu d'en payer au fermier le prix d'estimation.

§ 4. Comme il est nécessaire que l'estimation des bâtisses soit faite en toute justice, le seigneur et le fermier choisissent en pareille occasion deux hommes de confiance chacun, lesquels se réunissent au Conseil Communal, et décident par majorité le prix de la bâtisse que le fermier veut quitter. L'affaire est réglée par le Conseil Communal selon leur verdict. Si les quatre prud'hommes ne peuvent s'entendre, ou si même ils ne peuvent arriver à une majorité, ils doivent en élire un cinquième, dont la décision, quelle qu'elle ne fut, doit être adoptée par tous les autres.

Article 8.

§ 1. Les seigneurs ne sont pas en droit d'éloigner les fermiers des terres affermées à tous temps, quand bon leur semble. Mais si le fermier néglige ou suspend la culture de la ferme ou des champs sans raison légitime et amoindrit par-là le revenu de la propriété du seigneur, si de toute autre manière il fait du tort au seigneur, si sans justification sérieuse il se refuse de fournir au seigneur la part qui lui revient, bref, s'il agit contrairement aux engagements qu'il a contractés, et que le seigneur en porte plainte à l'autorité, cette dernière peut éloigner le fermier de la terre affermée après s'être assurée qu'il n'y a plus à s'attendre à ce qu'il se corrige, et après avoir fait des recherches, et s'être convaincue par des preuves concluantes de la justesse des assertions avancées.

§ 2. Les fermiers qui, selon leur propre désire, voudraient quitter les fermes qu'ils occupent, doivent en prévenir les seigneurs après la terminaison des travaux de battage.

§ 3. Le fermier qui quitterait une ferme sans en aviser le seigneur à temps requis sera tenu de rembourser le seigneur des pertes qui en résulteraient.

Article 9.

Les seigneurs n'ont pas le droit de donner à ferme les parts et revenus que leur rendent leurs fermes. Les seigneurs qui agissent contrairement y seront empêchés par l'autorité.

Article 10.

A l'avenir il est défendu aux seigneurs lorsqu'à certaines époques de l'année il se rendent à leurs terres, d'éloigner les fermiers de leurs maisons pour y habiter eux-mêmes, et de se faire entretenir par eux sans les payer.

Article 11.

Certains seigneurs ont l'usage de ne toucher leur part de la récolte des prunes qu'après que celle-ci ait été convertie en eau-de-vie. Vu que la fabrication de cette eau-de-vie demande de grandes dépenses et que cet usage, quoique reposant sur une ancienne tradition, impose de lourds fardeaux aux fermiers, à l'avenir les seigneurs auront à recevoir leurs parts de la récolte des prunes fraîches ou séchées, et n'auront pas droit à ne la réclamer qu'après que l'eau-de-vie en ait été extraite.

Article 12.

§ 1. Les représentants des fermiers cités par devant le Haut Conseil du Tanzimat, ont déposé que certains seigneurs, après avoir affermé leurs terres, posent aux fermiers de nouvelles prétentions en dehors des stipulations convenues, et sur le refus des fermiers d'obtempérer à leurs demandes leur signifient que telles ont été leurs conditions, et que si les fermiers ne veulent pas s'y conformer ils seront éloignés des fermes.

§ 2. Quoiqu'il soit évident que tous les propriétaires ne soient pas de ce nombre, il peut se trouver entre eux des gens avides qui pourraient être accusés de pareilles actions.

§ 3. Vu que jusqu'ici les contrats entre seigneurs et fermiers n'étaient selon l'usage conclus que verbalement et qu'il ne fût point dressé de documents écrits, il devra en résulter des difficultés pour l'arrangement des conflits éventuels entre les parties contractantes, qui pourraient surgir faute de documents par ignorance des stipulations contractuelles.

§ 4. Vu que les prétentions se trouvant en dehors des conventions conclues, et élevées par l'une ou l'autre partie, ne pourraient être soutenues qu'en présence de documents dressés selon les prescriptions de la Loi des Contrats, à l'avenir dans les sandjaks précités les autorités auront à dresser des documents contractuels en une langue compréhensible aux deux parties, renfermant les conditions convenues entre les seigneurs et les chefs de famille des fermiers. Ces contrats doivent être signés ou scellés par les deux parties, et légalisés par l'autorité. Un exemplaire en est donné au seigneur l'autre au fermier. Aucune clause appésantissante ne peut être ajoutée aux stipulations contenues dans le contrat, et obligatoires tant pour le seigneur que pour le fermier, ainsi qu'aux modifications prescrites par le présent Règlement. Mais il demeure loisible au seigneur d'accorder de propre gré des allégements au fermier.

§ 5. La validité du contrat est maintenue tant qu'il n'est pas survenu de changement dans la personne du fermier, ou bien tant que le chef de famille ayant signé le contrat n'est pas mort. Mais lorsqu'un fermier ne fait qu'entrer dans une terre, ou bien en cas de décès du chef de famille habitant la ferme qui avait signé le contrat, le vieux document expire et doit être renouvelé.

§ 6. Des formulaires de pareils contrats seront imprimés à Constantinople, distribués dans les arrondissements et villages, et gratuitement délivrés à chacun. Les employés doivent veiller à ce qu'aucune somme d'argent ne soit prélevée pour ces formulaires, ni sous titre de timbre ni sous celui de quelque autre impôt.

§ 7. Les employés, Maires des communes ou Notables, qui en pareil cas prélèveraient de l'argent de qui que ce soit, seront punis selon les prescriptions de la loi criminelle.

Article 13.

Il est du devoir du Vali, des Mutessarifs, des Caïmacams, et Mudirs de faire usage de plein zèle et de sollicitude dans l'application des principes énoncés dans les Articles précités, d'entendre tous les avis et plaintes des seigneurs et des fermiers, et de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires.

No. 148.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 592.) *Berlin, December* 9, 1879.

My Lord,

ON receiving your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday's date announcing the recognition of Roumania by the Italian Government, I inquired of the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs what course the German Government propose to take under the circumstances.

His Excellency replied that the recognition of Roumania by Italy could in no way alter the course the German Government felt it their duty to pursue in withholding their recognition until the Roumanian Government had fulfilled the conditions imposed upon them by the Treaty of Berlin.

The Roumanian Government had hastened to announce that the Italian Government had notified their official recognition at Bucharest, and the speedy arrival of an Italian Minister; but the Italian Government, on the other hand, had notified at Berlin that, while they recognized Roumania in principle, the formal and official act of recognition would only take place when the Italian Minister presented his credentials to Prince Charles, and it was not intended that he should be authorized to do so until the other three Powers were agreed simultaneously to proceed to the act of recognition.

Meanwhile, his Excellency was happy to say the French Government had volunteered at the present juncture to repeat their promise that they would not separate their action from that of Germany, and would wait until the German Government was ready to recognize, in concert with France, the independence of Roumania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 149.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 594. Confidential.) *Berlin, December* 9, 1879.

My Lord,

M. DE RADOWITZ called on me this afternoon to say that Prince Bismarck entirely agreed in what your Lordship had said to Count Münster yesterday, namely, that the three Powers ought to recognize the independence of Roumania simultaneously whenever they did it, and that the German Government now only waited for the settlement of the Roumanian railway question, which met with unnecessary delay at Bucharest, to proceed to an examination of the Emancipation Act, which must precede the formal recognition of the Principality.

The French Government had promised to act in concert with Germany in regard to Roumania, and Prince Bismarck hoped he might continue to reckon upon the support of Her Majesty's Government; but even if England and France were unable to postpone their recognition until Germany was ready to act simultaneously with them, the German Government could not modify the course they felt bound to pursue until the railway question was definitively settled.

He thought that in about three weeks, at latest, the present difficulties would be overcome, and that Prince Bismarck would then be happy to recognize Roumania simultaneously with England and France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 150.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 598. Confidential.) *Berlin, December* 10, 1879.

My Lord,

INFORMATION has reached the German Government that the Roumanians are making the most of their recognition by Italy, and that at Bucharest the Roumanian Government give out that England will soon follow Italy's good example, will separate

from France and Germany, and will recognize Roumania independently of those two Powers, as she has just done, &c.

In consequence, M. de Radowitz called here this morning to say that Prince Bismarck, who knows, through Count Münster's correspondence, how unfounded these rumours are, would be personally very much indebted to Her Majesty's Government if your Lordship saw no objection to letting the Roumanian Government know, through Mr. White, that England has not really broken with France and Germany, and does not intend to separate her action from theirs in regard to the recognition of Roumania.

Prince Bismarck, his Excellency said, felt satisfied that a timely hint in this sense from your Lordship would go far to convince the Roumanians that England, France, and Germany, at least, are in earnest about the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 151.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 603. Secret.) *Berlin, December* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

IT appears to me that the question of the recognition of Roumania has entered upon a phase which may lead to an unexpected issue.

If the Roumanian Government and Legislature adopt the Railway Convention as agreed upon at Berlin by M. de Stourdza with Messrs. Hausemann and Bleichröder entirely and without alteration, then the recognition will meet with no further delay on the part of the German Government.

But if the Roumanian Senate confirms the amendments lately adopted in the Lower House, and insist on modifying and altering the Berlin Draft of the Railway Convention, then Prince Bismarck will certainly decline to have anything further to do with a Government that has broken faith with him, and will proceed to a complete rupture of diplomatic relations with Roumania.

England and France would then be left to act without Germany.

All will depend, therefore, on the course which the Roumanian Senate sees fit to adopt next week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 152.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 793.) *Vienna, December* 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches Nos. 770 and 771 on the subject of the Bulgarian river monitors.

Upon referring to the Berlin Protocols after my last conversation with Baron Haymerle, I perceived that, as your Lordship has observed, he was justified in maintaining it to have been understood that Bulgaria could not have vessels of war or a war flag.

I have informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to join either in a remonstrance to Bulgaria against the violation of the Treaty, or in a representation to the Great Powers, but his Excellency said that, although he had made a friendly and unofficial communication to the Prince on the subject, he was afraid that at a moment of Ministerial crisis, when His Highness had been obliged to dissolve the Chamber, a more formal step might add to his difficulties, and he, therefore, thinks it better to defer it.

Baron Haymerle quite agrees with your Lordship in considering that the questions of the monitors and of the war flag should be kept distinct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 153.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 794. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 10, 1879.

A REPORT that General Ignatieff was to be appointed Russian Ambassador at Rome caused considerable dismay here, and Baron Haymerle showed marked satisfaction when he told me that, as far as he could ascertain, it had no foundation.

If the General went to Rome, he said, there could be no doubt that his first object would be to encourage intrigues against Austria, which were already going on with sufficient activity through Italian agents.

Count Tornielli had been very busy at Belgrade endeavouring to create embarrassments in that quarter, and information had now been received of his having extended his sphere of action into Bosnia, where he was leading those who were discontented with the Austrian rule to believe that, on an emergency, they could rely on Italian support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 154.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 795.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 10, 1879.

IN a conversation that I had yesterday with Baron Haymerle respecting the Montenegrin frontier, his Excellency expressed, not for the first time, his inability to understand the object of the Porte in sending a large force to Gussinjé-Plava, when all that was required of it was a formal announcement to the Montenegrin Government that the territory was made over to them, and that they were at liberty to occupy it.

Having just received a copy of your Lordship's despatch to Sir Henry Layard No. 1423, I said that the Porte was probably proceeding to occupy Gussinjé in force with the view of then intimating that it would be made over to the Montenegrins simultaneously with their surrender of Kucka-Kraina to Turkey, and I added that Her Majesty's Government considered that this would be a very proper mode of acting.

Baron Haymerle's attention did not appear to have been directed to the fact of the Montenegrins still holding territory assigned to the Porte by the Commission of Demarcation, but when I assured him of this being the case he said he would have the case brought before him.

He has an evident desire to favour the wishes of the Montenegrins as far as possible, but though he is not less strong than Count Andrassy used to be in expressing regret that the manifest objections to the incorporation into Montenegro of hostile Albanian districts had not been recognized at Berlin, he says that the provisions of the Treaty must now be fully carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 155.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 799. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 11, 1879.

I MENTIONED to-day to Baron Calice that I had spoken to Baron Haymerle about the abandonment of Gussinjé-Plava and Kucka-Kraina simultaneously by the Turks and by the Montenegrins, and I asked him whether he thought the Imperial Government would recommend that mode of proceeding to the two parties.

He said that the Porte, by playing "fast and loose" about the cession of Gussinjé, had placed the Austrian Government in a position which made it difficult now to connect it with the question of Kucka-Kraina. They had frequently acted at Cettinjé as the intermediaries between the Porte and the Prince, whose impatience to be put into possession of the territory assigned to him by the Treaty of Berlin had been restrained by

the representations of the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, and not one word had till now been said implying that the Montenegrins must at the same time abandon a district of which, if he was not mistaken, the frontier had not yet been definitively laid down.

I said that I was not going to defend the Porte for the manner in which it had delayed its renunciation of Gussinjé-Plava, but what we were now called upon to do was to deal with the question of the frontier between the two countries as it at present stands, and if each of them continue to occupy territory assigned by the Treaty to the other, it seemed evident that not one only, but both of the two parties should be persuaded to retire from it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 156.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, December* 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Décembre*, 1879.

"JE vous transmets ci-après le texte d'un télégramme que je viens d'adresser à l'Ambassadeur Ottoman à Saint Pétersbourg, et vous prie de le communiquer à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères :—

"'D'après les informations reçues par les Gouverneurs-Généraux de Monastir et de Cossova et transmises à la Sublime Porte, le conflit survenu en dernier lieu entre les Albanais et les Monténégrins aurait été provoqué par ces derniers. Le Gouvernement Impérial, ayant retiré ses troupes de Goussinjé, ne saurait affirmer l'exactitude de ces informations. En tout cas, le conflit en question est loin d'avoir les proportions qu'on lui a supposées au commencement. Nous sommes reconnaissants au Gouvernement Impérial de Russie d'avoir reconnu la sincérité des intentions de la Sublime Porte en ce qui concerne la question de Goussinjé. En effet, le Gouvernement Impérial s'est montré conséquent et ferme. Après avoir inutilement offert en échange de Goussinjé un territoire plus important et plus riche, il a agi, sans perte de temps, avec énergie et vigueur, son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha a reçu l'ordre de se mettre en route avec quinze bataillons afin d'appuyer par cette force les moyens de persuasion, destinés à éviter tout conflit entre les Monténégrins et les Albanais, et par conséquent toute effusion de sang. Son Excellence, arrivée à Coleandélen, a lancé une Proclamation invitant les populations à l'obéissance. De Prizrend, le Muchir a adressé aux habitants de Goussinjé, ainsi qu'à ceux de Yacova et d'Ipek, une nouvelle Proclamation, dont je vous enverrai copie par le courrier. Par cette Proclamation, il leur faisait connaître la ferme volonté du Gouvernement Impérial de se conformer au Traité de Berlin, et les invitait dans les termes les plus clairs à l'obéissance, en les prévenant des conséquences qui résulteraient pour eux de toute résistance. En même temps le Muchir disposait son armée de façon à empêcher tout secours, pouvant encourager les habitants à la résistance, de pénétrer dans Goussinjé. Pour compléter ces mesures militaires, il faisait venir de Mitrovitz sept autres bataillons dont il dirigeait les quatre sur Ipek. Une forte barrière était mise ainsi entre les habitants de Goussinjé et les localités d'où ils pouvaient attendre des renforts. Enfin, pour faire sentir à tous quelle était la volonté du Gouvernement Impérial, il donnait ordre au Caïmacam et au Cadi, qui étaient les seules autorités Ottomanes restées à Goussinjé, de se retirer. Telles sont les mesures prises par Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha, de concert avec le Gouverneur-Général et le Commandant Militaire de Cossova, réunis tous les trois à Prizrend.

"'Ces mesures ne sauraient nullement être taxées de lenteur et encore moins de faiblesse. Néanmoins, le Ministre du Monténégro nous a fait une communication déclarant que, son Gouvernement ne pouvant attendre plus longtemps, les troupes de la Principauté pénétreraient de force. Le Gouvernement Impérial, ayant donné l'ordre de se retirer à toutes ses autorités de Goussinjé, est parfaitement en règle. Ce qu'il fait en ce moment, ce qu'il continuera à faire afin d'empêcher le sang humain de couler, doit être considéré comme une preuve éclatante de ses loyales intentions et de son bon vouloir. Lui demander davantage ce serait prétendre le forcer à adopter des mesures imprudentes et de nature à compliquer la situation. La Sublime Porte a fait le possible et ne cessera point de diriger tous ses efforts en vue d'éviter une nouvelle effusion de sang. Si cependant on provoquait un conflit sanglant, la Sublime

Porte le déplorerait profondément ; mais elle aurait la conscience d'avoir tout fait pour l'empêcher.

"'Votre Excellence est priée de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Cabinet de Saint Pétersbourg. Copie de cette dépêche a été également adressée aux Représentants de la Sublime Porte à l'étranger et aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople.'"

No. 157.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, December* 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 14 *Décembre*, 1879.

"COMME il importe que la sincérité et la fermeté des mesures prises par la Sublime Porte dans la question de Goussinjé-Plava soient connues au plus tôt, je crois devoir vous transmettre, ci-après, télégraphiquement, la copie de la Proclamation dont mon télégramme d'hier vous annonçait l'envoi par le courrier. Vous voudrez bien la communiquer immédiatement au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité :

"'*Proclamation.*

"'Aux termes du Traité de Berlin, Goussinjé et Plava doivent être remis au Monténégro. Les autorités Impériales ont fait jusqu'à présent ce qui était nécessaire pour amener l'évacuation de ces districts. Malheureusement une partie des habitants semble être d'accord pour ne pas livrer Goussinjé et Plava, et pour organiser une résistance dans ce but. Tout le monde reconnaît que l'abandon de Goussinjé et de Plava est une obligation imposée par le Traité au Gouvernement Impérial. La résistance projetée des habitants n'aura d'autre résultat que de provoquer une effusion de sang inutile et d'attirer sur eux des malheurs. Cette attitude de la population est complétement désapprouvée par le Gouvernement Impérial. L'effusion du sang pour une affaire sans issue est d'ailleurs condamnée par la loi sacrée du Chéri et la raison. Nous ne doutons pas que ceux qui ont du bon sens n'apprécient la nécessité qui découle du Traité pour le Gouvernement Impérial dans cette question et les exigences de la situation. Nous comptons sur votre patriotisme et vous voir abandonner un principe dont les inconvénients sont évidents et obéir aux ordres des autorités Impériales. Au nom de la Sublime Porte, je vous déclare à vous tous, que ceux qui contreviendraient à ces recommandations assumeraient une responsabilité morale et matérielle.'"

No. 158.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 28.) *Bucharest, December* 14, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

INFORMATION received leads this Government to believe that Prince Bismarck adopts view of Berlin banks unfavourable to amendment introduced in Chamber in Railway Purchase Bill, and that at Berlin Roumanian Minister of Finance is held responsible. The latter has announced his intention to resign.

No. 159.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. ? .) *Paris, December* 15, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

A PERSON describing himself as a Bosnian, and giving the name of George Constantin, called to-day at the Embassy, and stated that two Russians, named Azoff and Kanief, were making arrangements at Berlin to go to Cyprus for the purpose of stirring up an insurrection. Do you wish me to invite any further communication from him?

No. 160.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 88. Secret.) *Berlin, December* 15, 1879, 8 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE BISMARCK has requested the Austrian Government to let it be known at Bucharest that if the Railway Convention is not adopted unchanged and as agreed upon at Berlin, he will act in concert with Russia to deprive Roumania of Arab-Tabia.

This threat is attributed to Count Schouvaloff's influence at Varzin.

No. 161.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 95.) *Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, December* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to reply to your No. 70 of the 2nd December, received on the 10th instant.

Immediately on receipt of it I communicated with Captain Sale, and he met me, in order to discuss the subject, on the 13th instant.

I presume that that part of Baron Haymerle's communication which relates to a proposed slight removal of the frontier-line to the eastward is what I am to report on, and to that I confine myself.

The chief consideration for Roumania appears to be that she should keep within her own control, in peace and war, the existing road leading from the Danube up the ravine along which the proposed frontier would pass, because that seems to be the only one by which she can maintain a communication between the parts of her territory separated by the river.

In time of peace this end would be fully answered if the frontier-line were so drawn along the ravine as to keep the road entirely on the Roumanian side of the boundary.

In case of war between the two Principalities, the change proposed by Baron Haymerle would not deprive Roumania of the possession and use of this road so long as she held the hill of Arab Tabiassi, because that hill commands throughout the ravine in which the new frontier-line would lie.

Therefore, the only difference made by the change would be a slight loss of territory to Roumania.

Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that it would be well to agree to the proposed concession, provided it should be ascertained that the Russian Government would be likely to accept that settlement of the question.

Otherwise, it would obviously be better not to disturb the decision already arrived at by the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 162.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

Dear Lord Salisbury, *Belgrave Square, December* 15, 1879.

BARON HAYMERLE has sent the following telegram to M. de Kosjek at Constantinople respecting the Gussinje affair :—

"Insister auprès de la Porte sur la remise immédiate des districts en question au Monténégro, en lui rappelant les promesses formelles qu'elle nous a faites à ce sujet itérativement et encore tout récemment lorsqu'elle fixa un terme elle-même, et assura que Mouktar Pacha avait à sa disposition un nombre suffisant de troupes. C'est en nous rendant à Cettinjé l'organe de ses promesses que nous avons réussi à retenir le Monténégro d'une occupation par la force des armes. Nous engageons vivement la Porte à rester fidèle à ses engagements, autrement elle s'exposerait à un conflit dont la portée pourrait dépasser l'importance des deux districts en litige."

We have declined the collective demarch proposed by Russia, as well as the appoint-

ment of a Commission of European Delegates to Albania, as we cannot conceive what business they would have there, nor how they could exert any efficacious influence.

We hope that the Cabinet of St. James' shares this view of the matter, and should set great value upon England taking steps in due time at Constantinople with a view to act in the same sense, and to draw the Porte's attention to the fact that, by delaying to yield up Gussinje, she will only nourish the excitement in Albania, and call forth a national fanaticism in that country which will finally turn against what small authority she still possesses there. Even a military success obtained by the Porte would in the end hardly be of any use to her, and the expenditure thus necessitated for military action would completely ruin her as to her finances.

If it should not be convenient to you to send me an answer at once, I shall be so happy as to fetch it myself on Wednesday at Hatfield.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 163.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 16, 4·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, December 14, 1879.*

THROUGH interruption of Turkish telegraphs I have been unable to keep your Lordship informed of what is passing at Gussinjé. I now send this by Antivari.

Serious fighting has occurred and continues, and although Montenegro claims successes, its heavy losses justify similar claim by Albanians.

The initiative of the Albanians having so complicated affairs, I believe it would be inexpedient to attempt to stay the military preparations of Montenegro before Turkish troops have entered Gussinjé and reasserted Sultan's authority.

Telegrams addressed to me to the care of the telegraph office, Antivari, will be forwarded here.

No. 164.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 16, 2·15 P.M.)

(No. 784.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 16, 1879, 10·30 A.M.*

GREEK Representatives have informed their Turkish colleagues in note that, if at the next meeting, day for which is not yet fixed, a further adjournment is proposed, and the Porte does not offer a definite frontier-line, they will have to inform their Government that all further negotiations are useless, and will ask for instructions.

They have, at the same time, proposed a new line somewhat south of that previously submitted.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me confidentially that the reason for the delay in resuming the discussion is that the matter is before the Sultan, who had not yet made up his mind as to the line that his Representatives should offer.

No. 165.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 16, 1879, 2·50 P.M.*

PRAY get all the information you can about Russian emissaries to Cyprus.

No. 166.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 310.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 16, 1879, 5 P.M.*

I UNDERSTAND Austrian Government is pressing Porte to accelerate as much as possible surrender of Gussinjé-Plava.

You should support their action in this, pointing out to the Porte that delay tends dangerously to encourage unruly portion of Albanians.

No. 167.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 311.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 16, 1879, 5·15 P.M.*

I APPROVE of Chermside accompanying Baker if Wilson concurs, but his friends are uneasy about his health. Do not let him run any serious risk.

No. 168.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1492.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 16, 1879.*

I UNDERSTAND that the Austrian Government are urging the Porte to accelerate as far as possible the surrender to Montenegro of the district of Gussinjé-Plava.

I have instructed you by telegraph to support the representations made by the Austrian Embassy upon this subject, and to point out to the Turkish Ministers that delay in effecting the surrender tends to encourage to a dangerous extent the more unruly portion of the Albanian population.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 169.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1495.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 16, 1879.*

THE Turkish Ambassador spoke to me to-day about the surrender of Gussinjé-Plava to Montenegro. His Excellency brought with him a long telegram, of which he read some parts, but of which, as it had not been entirely copied out, he promised to send me a transcript to-morrow. The object, however, of it was to assure the Powers of the desire of the Sultan to execute his Treaty obligations in respect to the frontier of Montenegro, and to deprecate any collective action on their part.

I urged upon him very earnestly the importance of an early compliance with the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin, and the danger of excitement among the Albanian tribes if any further delay took place in carrying the surrender into effect. At the same time, I told him that Her Majesty's Government had declined to take part in a collective representation to the Porte, because they were not yet satisfied that the time for such a measure had arrived. They hoped that, by giving a further interval of delay to the Sultan's Government, His Majesty's Treaty obligations would be fulfilled without the interposition of the Powers.

Musurus Pasha then told me that the Porte would do its best to procure the peaceable surrender of the territory; that they had withdrawn all their troops and all their civil authorities; but that if they failed in persuading the inhabitants to submit quietly to the arrangements provided for them by the Treaty, he did not think that the Treaty required, or the Powers could expect, that the Ottoman Government should itself make war against its own former subjects in order to force them into submission to the Power to whose authority they were to be transferred.

All that the Porte could do, he said, would be to withdraw all the emblems of its own authority, and to leave the Prince of Montenegro to take possession as soon as he thought fit.

I said, in reply, that the question as to international right was one of some difficulty, and that I could not answer it on the spur of the moment, but that my impression was that the Treaty would be satisfied by a complete evacuation on the part of the Sultan, and would leave the assertion of the authority of Montenegro to the action of that Principality itself.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 170.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

(Private.)
Dear Count Károlyi, *Foreign Office, December* 16, 1879.

I QUITE concur in Baron Haymerle's view both with respect to the inadmissibility of the Russian proposition and the importance of an early surrender to Montenegro of the territory to which she has a right under the Berlin Treaty.

I have telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to request him to support the action of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 171.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 161. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November* 30, 1879.

I TRUST your Lordship will not disapprove my having determined to suspend making use for the present of the information conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant regarding the Sultan's intentions and wishes about the immediate surrender of Gussinjé-Plava.

I believe that if I was to communicate just now to Prince Nicholas the assurances coming from Constantinople, His Highness would at once surmise that the promises made three weeks ago have already been broken, and that another term of delay is to be gained from him.

By allowing Khalid Bey to offer to His Highness such explanations as he can bring forward for the dilatoriness of Moukhtar Pasha's movements, and abstaining myself from appearing to give credence to the commencement of active operations by the Montenegrins, I think Prince Nicholas is most likely to prolong the observance of the moderation he promised, whilst, also, I thus avoid marking too sharply the undignified position in which the Turkish Government has been placed by the repeated failure on the part of its Commanders to fulfil its engagements.

Although General Bojo Petrovich is reported, in accordance with the intimation conveyed in the Montenegrin note to me of the 11th instant, to have left with some troops for the neighbourhood of Gussinjé, to be present there on the 26th, I still am of opinion that nothing to bring about hostilities will be attempted by the Montenegrins, who will be careful to avoid losing a single life as long as they see even a remote prospect of the quiet cession of the district.

On the other hand, there are many reasons cautioning me from supporting too confidently towards Montenegro the action of the Ottoman authorities, notwithstanding the undoubted sincerity of the assurances of the Porte.

The reports coming from Gussinjé still depict the inhabitants as bent on resistance, and as having been very considerably reinforced from the districts around Ipek and Jacova, not only by men, but also with supplies of ammunition and provisions. It is firmly asserted that pledges are held that the troops marching towards Gussinjé will refuse to act if the natives make a show of resistance, and it is expected that Moukhtar Pasha will halt either at Prisrend or some neighbouring locality, and from there endeavour to terrorize the Porte into inaction by exaggerating the strength of the opposition before him.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the above dangers and complications will disappear before the loyal determination of the Sultan's Government, as did those foreseen when Spuz and Podgoritza surrendered; but should they not, it is better that Montenegro should be unable to fix the responsibility of the loss of valuable opportunities to obtain its rights

on any but its own acceptance, direct from the Turkish Government, of the promises now held forth.

I need hardly assure your Lordship, however, that I should not fail to use my best endeavours to prevent Prince Nicholas from acting in a precipitate manner should I observe any real inclination on his part to impede Turkish preparations for the peaceable delivery of Gussinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 172.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 801.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 780 of the 5th December, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a further Report (dated the 5th December, received by Baron Haymerle from M. de Schlick, Austrian Consul at Jassy) states that of late no Russian officers have been resident or passing through that town in any numbers; about twenty or thirty per month may pass Jassy on their way to and fro between Austria or Bulgaria and Russia. Thus, in the week previous to December 5, a Russian Major and his wife, two officers, and four non-commissioned officers went through on their return from Bulgaria.

From information received by the Consul from Russian Ungheni and Leovo, there would seem to be no particular concentration or movement of troops in the neighbouring districts of Russian Bessarabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 173.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 17.)

My Lord, *Londres, le* 16 *Décembre*, 1879.

JE m'empresse de transmettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, copie de la dépêche télégraphique adressée par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à l'Ambassadeur Ottoman à Vienne au sujet de la question de Goussinjé-Plava, et dont j'ai entretenu votre Excellence dans notre entrevue d'aujourd'hui.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 16 *Décembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-après le texte d'un télégramme que je viens d'adresser à son Altesse Edhem Pacha, et vous prie de le communiquer immédiatement à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité:—

"J'ai eu l'honneur de transmettre avant-hier à votre Altesse copie d'un télégramme responsif adressé à son Excellence Chakir Pacha et résumant la situation actuelle de la question de Goussinjé-Plava. Depuis, M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie m'a communiqué une dépêche de son Excellence le Baron de Haymerle dont voici la substance: cette dépêche rappelle d'abord les assurances itératives du Gouvernement Impérial pour la remise de Goussinjé-Plava, les démarches que le Cabinet de Vienne fit à Cettinjé pour contenir les Monténégrins, et enfin la mission de Moukhtar Pacha chargé d'opérer la remise de ces districts dans un terme fixe. Le Baron Haymerle ajoute que Moukhtar Pacha aurait déclaré qu'il ne pouvait pas répondre de ses troupes s'il devait employer la force. Il engage ensuite la Sublime Porte à tenir ses promesses en vue d'empêcher un conflit devenu inévitable

et dont le portée pourrait bien dépasser l'importance des deux districts en litige. Quant au Cabinet de Vienne, il déclare que ces efforts auprès du Monténégro sont épuisés. La dépêche conclut en ces termes :—'Je vous engage à faire valoir dans ce sens toute la gravité de la situation auprès des Ministres Ottomans, et à faire immédiatement ordonner la remise des districts au Commissaire Monténégrin qui se trouve sur la frontière.'

"Avant de répondre à cette dépêche, il est nécessaire d'établir nettement ce qui s'est passé à propos de la question de Goussinjé-Plava. Le lendemain de ma nomination au Département des Affaires Etrangères que j'ai l'honneur de diriger, j'interpellais M. Radonitz à propos de la concentration sur la frontière de vingt-cinq bataillons Monténégrins et d'une quantité considérable de munitions. Le Ministre du Monténégro m'apprenait alors que, comme son Gouvernement avait eu motif de supposer que le district en question ne pouvait pas être pacifiquement occupé par les Agents de la Principauté, il avait effectivement concentré des troupes sur un point de la frontière dans le but de les faire entrer de force dans Goussinjé.

"Je répondis que je ne pouvais pas encore considérer comme closes les négotiations entamées par mon prédécesseur relativement à l'échange de ce district contre celui de Cuci Kranja, et que par conséquent je le priais de m'obtenir le dernier mot de Son Altesse le Prince. Je lui donnais à cet égard les plus amples informations en ajoutant qu'en l'état toute attaque de troupes Princières serait non-seulement une action contraire aux lois de l'humanité, mais aussi une mesure inutile et injustifiable. Trois jours après son Excellence me communiquait un télégramme du Prince déclinant l'échange, et demandant dans combien de jours et par quels moyens la Sublime Porte comptait effectuer la translation pacifique de Goussinjé. A cette communication il a été répondu que le Gouvernement Impérial, respectant les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, ne s'était jamais opposé à ce que la Principauté prît possession du dit district ; que ce n'est qu'à cause des difficultés que l'exécution de cette mesure présentait qu'il avait proposé un échange, mais que, sur la réponse de Son Altesse, toute idée d'échange se trouvant écartée, on allait porter télégraphiquement cette décision à la connaissance de Moukhtar Pacha, et le consulter sur les moyens les plus propres à employer, ainsi que sur l'espace de temps qui serait nécessaire pour effectuer pacifiquement et sans effusion de sang cette translation. Le même jour un télégramme dans ce sens a été transmis au Muchir.

"Son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha répondit qu'il était prêt à s'approcher en personne des localités pour agir sur l'esprit des habitants par la persuasion, mais qu'il jugeait nécessaire de faire appuyer cette action morale par une force armée imposante. Comme dans la saison actuelle un déplacement de troupes est à la fois difficile et fort coûteux, et que l'efficacité de cette mesure n'était pas absolument démontrée, nous avons cru devoir, avant de décider ce déplacement, essayer une dernière fois de proposer un échange plus avantageux. Cette nouvelle tentative étant restée infructueuse, le mouvement de troupes proposé a été décidé, et le 25 Novembre je faisais annoncer au Ministre du Monténégro et aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances qu'en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha était autorisé à se rapprocher des localités à la tête de quinze bataillons pour faciliter par les moyens pacifiques, et sans la moindre effusion de sang, la prise de possession de Goussinjé-Plava par les Monténégrins. Il importe ici de faire connaître à votre Altesse que, sur ces entrefaites, le Ministre du Monténégro était venu m'annoncer que le Prince, voulant mettre fin à cette question, avait décidé d'envoyer sur la frontière le Sénateur Bojo Pétrovitch avec ordre de pénétrer par la force dans Goussinjé le 27 du même mois, terme du délai que Son Altesse avait fixé, quand je lui avais fait représenter qu'avant d'agir par la force on devait nous donner le temps d'épuiser les moyens pacifiques.

"Du 25 au 27 il ne restait que deux jours. J'ai donc ajouté au message ci-dessus énoncé qu'il fallait que le Sénateur Pétrovitch reçût l'ordre de ne point attaquer, au moins pendant une quinzaine de jours, pour donner à son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha le temps d'agir par les moyens pacifiques.

"Telle a été la teneur de mon message. Jamais il n'a été promis ni annoncé que le Gouvernement Impérial devait donner à Moukhtar Pacha l'ordre d'occuper par la force des armes Goussinjé et de le remettre aux Monténégrins. Jamais il n'a été déclaré que le Gouvernement Impérial prenait l'engagement d'effectuer par la force dans un délai déterminé la remise de ces districts au Monténégro. Ce que le Gouvernement Impérial a promis, il l'a rigoureusement exécuté, comme il appert de mon télégramme du 13 de ce mois, résumant les mouvements militaires exécutés et les mesures prises par son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha. Si vingt-deux bataillons de

l'armée Impériale ont été à grands frais déplacés et rapprochés de Goussinjé, cela a eu lieu sur les demandes instantes et réitérées du Ministre de Monténégro, qui me demandait, encore dans notre dernière entrevue, de les rapprocher davantage de Goussinjé. Quant au reproche de ne pas nous être rapprochés de Goussinjé, nous répondons que quatre de nos bataillons se trouvent à Ipek, et que d'ailleurs ce mouvement militaire était destiné à isoler ce district des localités dont les habitants pouvaient lui fournir un certain appui. Les termes de la Proclamation faite au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan aux habitants de Goussinjé-Plava prouvent à l'évidence combien nous avons été sincères, sérieux, et fermes dans notre action. Sans en tenir compte, le Ministre du Monténégro est venu me déclarer qu'à l'expiration des quinze jours, coincident avec le 11 de ce mois, l'armée Monténégrine pénétrerait inexorablement dans Goussinjé et en exterminerait tous les habitants. Je lui ai répondu que le Gouvernement Impérial ne pourrait que le déplorer en constatant qu'il avait fait tous ses efforts pour conjurer ces calamités.

"Tels sont les faits, et je me suis appliqué à les reproduire avec la plus rigoureuse exactitude. Il s'en dégage clairement cette conclusion que, si, au lieu d'agir comme il a agi, le Gouvernement Impérial avait déclaré dès le premier jour au Gouvernement Princier qu'il avait retiré de Goussinjé-Plava ses troupes et ses autorités, et qu'il le laissait libre d'en prendre possession par la force, il serait parfaitement en règle, et que ce n'est que pour sauver la vie à des milliers d'hommes innocents qu'il a entrepris, et qu'il poursuit avec la plus grande persévérance, cette œuvre de pacification.

"Je réponds à présent aux principaux points du télégramme de son Excellence le Baron Haymerle :—

"1. Son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha n'a jamais déclaré ne pas pouvoir répondre de ses troupes. Tout le monde connaît l'obéissance et la discipline de l'armée Ottomane. La vérité est que le Muchir, invité sur les instances pressantes du Ministre du Monténégro à se rapprocher davantage des localités, a fait observer très-judicieusement que, dans la situation actuelle des esprits, il ne jugeait pas prudent de se rapprocher des avant-postes Monténégrins, craignant que ce voisinage n'amenât des conflits d'avant-postes, pouvant engendrer des complications.

"2. Il n'y a eu ni arrêt ni défaillance dans l'action de la Sublime Porte, et moins encore une contradiction quelconque entre ses déclarations et ses actes. Les retards dont on se plaint sont inhérents à la situation, et cette situation est connue de tous. L'action pacifique du Muchir continue à s'exercer avec la même vigueur et la même persistance.

"3. Nous sommes très-reconnaissants au Gouvernement Impérial et Royal de Sa Majesté Apostolique de ses conseils au Monténégro, et de son désir de prévenir un conflit, et c'est précisément parce que la Sublime Porte réfléchit mûrement et considère, avec la plus scrupuleuse et la plus anxieuse attention, les complications que tout conflit peut faire naître, qu'elle s'est abstenue de prendre les mesures imprudentes et violentes que l'impatience des autorités Monténégrines veut lui faire adopter. Quant aux deux districts, nous prions son Excellence de croire que nous ne cherchons pas à les conserver par des subterfuges. La fidélité que nous avons apportée à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin devrait nous mettre à l'abri d'un pareil soupçon.

"4. Pour ce qui concerne le dernier paragraphe du télégramme précité, je réponds tout simplement que la remise des districts au Commissaire Monténégrin a été ordonnée par la Proclamation même faite aux habitants, et par le rappel des dernières autorités Ottomanes qui y restaient. Si l'on entendait cependant que le Gouvernement Impérial dût ordonner à ses troupes d'occuper Goussinjé par la force afin de le remettre aux autorités Monténégrines, nous déclarons franchement que c'est là une mesure trop grosse de conséquences morales et politiques pour que la Sublime Porte se décide à l'adopter.

"Les habitants des deux districts sont coupables de résistance aux ordres de leurs autorités. Pour les réduire deux moyens se sont offerts et s'offrent encore : le premier c'est l'emploi des moyens de persuasion, appuyés d'ailleurs de l'attitude énergique des autorités Impériales civiles et militaires. Il exige de la patience et du temps. C'est celui que nous nous sommes efforcés, et que nous continuerons à nous efforcer de faire prévaloir. Le second c'est l'emploi de la force brutale. Si c'est ce dernier moyen qui prévaut, il est du devoir de la Sublime Porte de dégager sa responsabilité morale, et de laisser à l'Etat cessionnaire le soin d'une si cruelle exécution. C'est ce qu'elle a fait en retirant ses autorités civiles et militaires des districts à occuper. On ne saurait lui rien demander de plus dès l'instant où on rejette les moyens plus humains, et peut-être plus efficaces qu'elle ne cesse point d'employer. Il convient d'ajouter que c'était là l'unique voie à suivre pour éviter un conflit sanglant entre les deux Etats.

"Ayant retiré nos troupes des deux districts nous avons rempli l'Article XXXII du Traité de Berlin. Il n'en est pas de même de la Principauté dont les troupes occupent encore plusieurs points nous revenant d'après ce même Traité. Nous aurions pu, pour ne pas retirer nos autorités de Goussinjé-Plava, opposer cet argument au Gouvernement Princier. Mais nous avons tout mis de côté pour nous préoccuper que de la question d'humanité soulevée par le conflit menaçant d'éclater par suite de la concentration des forces Monténégrines sur la frontière. Il est donc juste que le Gouvernement éclairé de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique nous tienne compte de nos efforts, de nos sacrifices, et de notre conduite loyale et ferme. Votre Altesse, en communiquant le présent télégramme à son Excellence M. le Baron de Haymerle, voudra bien le prier, au nom de la Sublime Porte, de l'étudier avec bienveillance et avec toute l'attention que méritent de la part d'un Gouvernement ami et constant allié la situation actuelle de l'Empire Ottoman et les nombreuses et graves difficultés contre lesquelles il a été appelé à lutter au sortir d'une guerre désastreuse.

"J'espère que son Excellence appréciera la franchise avec laquelle j'ai rendu compte des faits, et reconnaîtra la valeur des considérations qui en découlent.

"Copie de la présente dépêche a été expédiée aux autres Missions de la Sublime Porte à l'étranger, et remise en même temps aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople."

No. 174.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, December* 16, 1872.

COUNT TORNIELLI, Italian Minister Plenipotentiary, came last night and notified arrival.

No. 175.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

Foreign Office, December 17, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, inclosing a copy of a telegraphic despatch respecting the question of Goussinjé-Plava, which the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed to his Excellency Edhem Pasha at Vienna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 176.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 18, 1879.

TURKISH Ambassador has telegraphed to the Porte strongly urging it to issue a Proclamation to the inhabitants of Gussinjé stating in plain terms that the district is now annexed to Montenegro, and warn them that they will be left without support to bear the consequences of any resistance that they may attempt to make. He also recommends that an Ottoman Commissioner should be sent to meet a Montenegrin Commissioner to communicate this Proclamation and to announce the withdrawal of every Turkish functionary from Gussinjé.

It appears very desirable that the Porte should follow this recommendation.

There is no likelihood of the Prince listening to a proposal for the exchange of Gussinjé against the Kucka Krajna, and the Austrian Government would not be easily persuaded to join in considering that the cession of the two districts should be made simultaneously, as no mention of the latter was made while they were negotiating about the former, when they received the assurance of the Porte that it should be given up.

No. 177.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 18, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 18, 1879, 1·15 P.M.

THOUGH the Government again failed yesterday to obtain the necessary majority of two-thirds in the House of Deputies, the matter is not disposed of, but is referred to a Committee of the two Austrian Houses.

No. 178.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 18, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 18, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Government are giving the German Government their strongest support in the Railway difficulty with Roumania, and have intimated at Bucharest that they can take no step to facilitate recognition of Principality by other Powers while its Government shows such disregard for engagements they have taken.

No. 179.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 18, 10 P.M.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, December* 18, 1879, 7·10 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS go to-night to the French Ambassador at London to invite Her Majesty's Government to mediate in the Greek Frontier question. He is to propose to them a definite line of frontier which would leave Janina to Turkey, but would give Mezzovo and compensations in Thessaly to Greece. The same communication will also be made to the other Great Powers.

No. 180.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 296.)
My Lord, *Athens, December* 8, 1879.

THE Chamber of Deputies is still occupied with the verification of the elections, and in to-day's sitting the Report of the Committee on those of the Island of Milo came on for discussion.

This Report contains a recommendation that the Cretans who have established themselves in that island, and formed themselves into a separate community at two places called Minoa and Adamantos, should be allowed to elect a Representative to the Chamber. A conversation ensued in regard to this recommendation, during which M. Coumoundouros, the Prime Minister, stated that the people of these places had petitioned the Government several times in this sense, and that he and his colleagues were well disposed to grant their request, as they thought it would be "good policy and to the interest of Greece" to have a Cretan Deputy in the Chamber to give expression to the views and wishes of the Cretans.

The Government had therefore done all in its power to create an electoral district in Adamantos, but as it had found that that place did not contain the requisite number of inhabitants, the Chamber must take the matter into its own hands and decide whether a modification of the electoral law would be advisable in this case.

M. Kyriakide, the Member for Milo, observed that there were only seventy-nine Cretans in the island, but this remark was allowed to pass unnoticed, and the conversation terminated in a proposal being made that the Government should obtain exact information relative to the number of Cretan residents at Minoa and Adamantos, and that the recom-

mendation of the Committee should be reconsidered at an early date after the constitution of the Chamber.

No opposition was made to this proposal.

I have, &c.
(For Mr. Corbett),
(Signed) AUG. H. MOUNSEY.

No. 181.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 297.)
My Lord, *Athens, December* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 285 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Greek newspapers announce a case of brigandage in the Province of Phthiotide.

They state that on the 26th ultimo five brigands waylaid and captured three inhabitants of a village near Mount Tymphrestos, that they released one of their prisoners, and kept the other two for ransom.

They add that the Public Prosecutor of the Tribunal of Lamia has been sent to the spot to make inquiries into the matter.

I have, &c.
(For Mr. Corbett),
(Signed) AUG. H. MOUNSEY.

No. 182.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 1228.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, the authentic Report of the proceedings in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday with regard to a question on the subject of the recognition of Roumania put by M. Legrand to M. Waddington, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Your Lordship will see that, in his answer to M. Legrand, M. Waddington affirmed that what was done at the Congress of Berlin in favour of Roumania was obtained by the French Plenipotentiaries, and that, in the question of the Israelites, since raised, the part taken by France had always been to ask the other Powers to moderate their requirements: "Notre rôle a toujours été de demander aux autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin d'adoucir leurs exigences, de diminuer la somme de ce qu'*ils* demandaient au nouveau Gouvernement de cet Etat." [*Sic.*]

He concluded by saying that he hoped that the Powers with whom France had acted would soon come to an agreement between themselves, and with France, to recognize Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 183.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 1234. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1228 of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington asked me yesterday if I had read the speech he had made in the Chamber of Deputies in answer to the question put to him by M. Legrand with respect to the recognition of Roumania.

I replied that I had undoubtedly read it, and that I would confess that I had seen with surprise the statement it contained that in the Jewish question the part of the French Government had always been to ask the other Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, to soften their requirements, and to diminish the amount of what they demanded of the new Government of Roumania.

I added that certainly my own impression was that the French Government had been particularly stiff and exacting in its treatment of this matter.

M. Waddington replied that in dealing with the Chamber of Deputies it was necessary to make allowance for the strong feeling in favour of Roumania, which existed both in the Chamber itself and in France generally.

M. Waddington went on to say that he had explained to Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador, that it was very desirable that the recognition of Roumania should not be much longer delayed; and had pointed out to him that the French Government would be very much embarrassed when the Chambers reassembled next month if, instead of a simple question on the subject of Roumania, an interpellation, to be followed by an Order of the Day, should be brought forward.

M. Waddington said to me, in conclusion, that he should be glad to hear that the Roumanian Chambers were dealing speedily and liberally with the petitions for naturalization addressed to them by individual Israelites.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 184.

Pro-Memorid communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Admiral Pothuau, December 19, 1879.

SI on pourrait à la rigueur considérer comme un minimum satisfaisant pour la Grèce la ligne tracée en Epire au sud de Calamas, bien qu'elle laissât en dehors Janina vers le nord, mais il conviendrait dès lors que cette frontière fût prolongée à l'est en suivant les crêtes comme le veut le régime des eaux, de façon à engloher le haut de la Vallée de l'Arta, le Mont Zygos et Metzovo.

Ce dernier point pourrait être considéré comme la compensation de Janina. En revanche du côté de la Thessalie, il serait équitable d'élargir la part des Grecs, si sensiblement restreinte en Epire. Nous pensons qu'une ligne répondant aux intentions des Puissances pourrait être tracée à partir de Metzovo de manière à embrasser les Monts Rassia et bassin septentrional du Salamyrias Supérieur avec Trikala; elle rejoindrait ensuite un peu à l'ouest de Tournovos, la Rivière Heraghis, s'élèverait au nord en enfermant tous les affluents du Penée, et aboutirait à la mer à Kara Derbend.

Résumé.

Nous proposons de suivre en Epire la limite méridionale du bassin du Calamas, et en Thessalie la limite septentrionale de la Vallée du Penée.

No. 185.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19, 11·15 A.M.)

Scutari, December 18, 1879, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir H. Layard:—

"Direct telegraphic communication re-established, and your telegrams of (I think) 11th and 14th just received. With regard to last, I am convinced that Prince Nicholas has no wish to sacrifice a single Montenegrin life to gain possession of Gussinjé, and will patiently await surrender, if he sees Turkish authorities really exerting themselves to effect it. Up to the present, every step predicted by those who have no faith in Ottoman promises has occurred; and now, if the Porte is allowed to threaten, without protest or remonstrance, the defection of its troops, this suspected and foreseen complication will surely happen. The existing state of things is much more dangerous for Turkey than for Montenegro; therefore, Porte need not congratulate itself on Russian support. The Albanians openly declare that they have had enough of Sultan's Government.

"(Sent to Foreign Office.)"

No. 186.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19, 2 P.M.)

Vienna, December 19, 1879.

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.)

ROUMANIAN Minister tells me that reason of his Government for consenting to seat of Railway Administration being absolutely fixed at Bucharest by the law was that they found conditions of making this depend upon the consent of the shareholders was a mere device for keeping the Administration at Berlin.

They affirm that they have ascertained that the consent of the shareholders to the removal would be refused.

No. 187.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 19, 2·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, December 19, 1879, 12·20 P.M.

(No. 786.)
(Telegraphic.)

MICHELL telegraphs as follows:—

"Governor-General has refused request of Exarch to place at disposal of Committee 500*l.* for immediate relief of persons who must otherwise die of hunger and cold. I have therefore supplied 200*l.*, and Ottoman Bank equal amount, but these resources entirely inadequate for most urgent wants. Collection can only commence next week, after Relief Society is constituted and authorized by Governor-General. Are any funds available at Constantinople? Please inform Lord Salisbury."

I have authorized Mr. Michell to draw on Compassiona teFund for 500*l.*

Mr. Brophy telegraphs from Bourgas as follows:—

"600 Mussulmans, refugees of villages and from towns, still remain in Bourgas without sufficient shelter or food, will assuredly perish of hunger and cold unless helped by extraneous charity. At Karnabad Christian and Mussulman refugees in greatest distress; local authorities admit resources utterly insufficient. Can anything be done to rescue these poor creatures from their misery? French Consul telegraphs to his Embassy on the subject."

No. 188.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, December 19, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

IF you are asked about the railway negotiation, you had better advise the Roumanians, as a matter of prudence, to comply with the wishes of Germany.

The fact that the Finance Minister has given promises at Berlin, which it is now sought to repudiate, makes attitude adopted by Roumania hardly defensible.

No. 189.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1516.)

Foreign Office, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day and communicated to me the *pro-memoriâ* of which I herewith inclose a copy, together with a map which accompanied it, showing the proposals of the French Government with regard to the rectification of the frontier between Turkey and Greece.*

I declined to express any opinion on these proposals until I had had an opportunity of consulting my colleagues on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 190.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 156.)

Foreign Office, December 19, 1879.

Sir,

IN the event of your opinion being asked as to the course which it would be expedient for the Roumanian Government to pursue with regard to the negotiations now pending between them and the German Government on the subject of the Railway Purchase Bill, it is, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, advisable that you should recommend them, as a matter of prudence, to comply with the wishes of Germany.

You will point out that the fact of the Roumanian Minister of Finance having made promises to the German Government which it is now sought to repudiate, makes the attitude adopted by the Roumanian Government difficult to defend.

A telegram in this sense was addressed to you to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

Nisch, November 20, 1879.

(No. 299.)
My Lord,

I HAVE not failed to take the earliest opportunity of expressing to M. Ristich the unfavourable impression caused by the apparent disregard shown by His Highness Prince Milan and his Government for their obligations under the Treaty of Berlin in according to a Bulgarian Agent, named Dr. Kirovitch, a public and official reception, such as only the accredited Representatives of independent foreign Powers were entitled to.

His Excellency at once admitted that the proceedings I complained of on the part of Her Majesty's Government were indefensible, and that he deeply regretted them. He added that the object the Prince had in view was to mark his sense of the honour done him by the Prince of Bulgaria in addressing him the autograph letter of which Dr. Kirovitch was merely the bearer, and that his Highness did not thereby intend to recognize him in any official capacity.

* No. 184.

On several previous occasions foreign Sovereigns have deigned to address autograph letters to His Highness Prince Milan, but I am not aware that the bearers of these Royal or Imperial letters were received by His Highness with the same public ceremonial in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 192.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Nisch, November 25, 1879.*

WITH reference to the newspaper reports on the subject of the connection of the Servian Government with the Russian Panslavist Committee, contained in Mr. Egerton's despatch No. 647 of the 14th October last, and communicated to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 109 of the 3rd instant, I have to state that the Servian Government has, so far as is known, long ceased to be subsidized by that of Russia, a circumstance to which I attribute, in a great measure, the rapid decline of Russian influence in this Principality.

During the hostilities against Turkey large sums of money were no doubt remitted to Servia by the Russian Panslavist Committees, and they were thankfully accepted as contributions, but not in the light of loans; consequently, there is no intention, as there are no means, of repaying them.

The writer of the article in the Vienna "Presse" probably alludes to a Servian loan of the nominal amount of 1,000,000 roubles raised in Russia through the exertions, and under the patronage, of the Panslavist Committees who were at that time represented in Servia by Colonel Komaroff, the lessee of the "St. Petersburgh Gazette" ("Viedomosti"). This gentleman came to Belgrade last year with the object of providing himself with vouchers for the various sums he had disbursed, as the accounts of the Committees having been found in an unsatisfactory state, auditors had been appointed to look into them.

He endeavoured at the same time to obtain the concession of the Servian railways under the threat of exacting the repayment of the loan above referred to, on which no interest has been paid to this day. It is almost superfluous to state that he succeeded in the first, but failed in the second, object of his visit to Servia, where his presence was anything but welcome.

There are at all times many persons of every rank and station, but generally of doubtful character, travelling about in the south-east of Europe who give themselves out as agents of Russian Panslavist or Italian revolutionary societies. They, of course, endeavour to make the greatest number of proselytes, as, for the most part, they manage to live at their expense.

I have not of late observed any unusual amount of activity amongst them, which may possibly be accounted for by the fact alleged by Mr. Kallay that the Panslavonic Committees are very short of funds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. GOULD.

No. 193.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 303. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Nisch, November 26, 1879.*

REPORTS, apparently well authenticated, having lately found their way into the press of the formation of a Confederation of the Balkan States for purposes of defence, the text of the alleged Treaty of Alliance between them having even appeared in one of the most influential of the Vienna newspapers, I took the first favourable opportunity that presented itself to question M. Ristich on the subject. His Excellency at once categorically denied there was any foundation for those and other similar reports spread, as he alleged, by Austrian Agents and the adherents of Prince Karageorgevitch with a view to compromise Servia and the reigning Dynasty in the eyes of the Great Powers.

He went on to say that the text of the supposed Treaty of Alliance published in the

"Wiener Zeitung" was written by a friend of Prince Karageorgevitch, General Stratimerovitch, a retired Servian officer of the Austro-Hungarian army.

He positively assured me that neither M. Hamburger, for some time Prince Gortchacow's Confidential Secretary, nor the Montenegrin Ministers of War and of Foreign Affairs had visited Belgrade. His Excellency's statements on the latter point are confirmed by persons whose good faith can scarcely be called in doubt.

The contingency of a Confederation of the Balkan States for aggressive as well as defensive purposes cannot be overlooked. Notwithstanding the rivalries existing both between the Rulers and the peoples of these States, they may combine on an emergency to attain a common object or to ward off a common danger. No such emergency having yet arisen, there is no reason to believe, as there is no reliable evidence to prove, that there exists a formal Treaty of Alliance between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 194.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 304. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Nisch, December 1, 1879.*

SHORTLY before proceeding to England last September, I addressed a note to M. Ristich transmitting, for his Excellency's information, the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker on the sufferings of the Mussulman and Jewish population of Nisch under the administration of the then Prefect of the town, M. Pavlovitch.

As complaints of a similar nature were continually recurring, as M. Ristich admitted they were well founded, and, finally, as his Excellency had repeatedly promised to cause the Prefect in question to be removed, but was prevented from carrying out his promises owing to the powerful protection the Prefect enjoyed at Prince Milan's Court, I ventured to express my astonishment that acts, such as those alleged against M. Pavlovitch, could continue to be perpetrated "under His Highness' very eyes," an expression which I regret, but which, nevertheless, was perfectly justified under the circumstances.

M. Ristich, who entirely shared my views, did not deem it necessary to take any notice of the expression in the note referred to, and it was in due course of time laid, with other papers, before His Highness, who, however, took him severely to task for having permitted such an expression to pass unnoticed.

M. Ristich, whose position is very embarrassing, because he is as much disliked as he is feared by the Prince, was compelled to take up the matter against his wish.

Since then, as I have learnt from private sources, several notes on the subject have been drafted, but they have one after the other found their way into the waste-paper basket.

At last a note has been composed which is considered satisfactory, and the draft of which has been shown to me by M. Ristich.

In this note I am rebuked for allowing Mr. Vice-Consul Baker to interfere in the internal affairs of the Principality, and told that as "un homme entendu," which I take to mean "a reasonable man," I must see the impropriety of having directly mentioned the Prince's name in my official correspondence with the Servian Government.

His Excellency having asked me my opinion about the note which he intended addressing to me, I frankly advised him not to reopen a disagreeable correspondence which referred to a state of things that happily no longer existed.

I also pointed out that he would place me under the painful necessity of replying that, as the Representative of one of the co-Signatory Powers, I was in duty bound to insist upon the prescriptions of the Treaty of Berlin being strictly carried out, and that consequently I had not exceeded my duty in remonstrating against the maltreatment of the Mussulman and Jewish population, adding that I should have, at the same time, to mention that, notwithstanding the proofs of the late Prefect's misconduct, he had been transferred to another post with an increase of salary.

His Excellency admitted the correctness of my information as to the last fact; but excused himself on the plea that it was only on those terms he had finally succeeded in obtaining the Prince's consent to M. Pavlovitch's removal from the post of Prefect of Nisch.

I am inclined to think M. Ristich will allow the subject to drop, but in order to render his task more easy as regards Prince Milan, I requested him to express verbally to His

Highness the regret I felt that he should have taken offence at the expression contained in a note which would probably never appear in print.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 195.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 305.)

My Lord, *Nisch, December* 1, 1879.

ACTING under your Lordship's instructions, I have repeatedly had occasion to remonstrate with the Servian Government on the maltreatment of the Mussulman population in the territories recently ceded to the Principality. Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, whose conduct, under peculiarly difficult circumstances, I have much pleasure in recommending to your Lordship's favourable notice, has, by my directions, drawn up a Report (dated the 16th September last, but only put into my hands within the last few days) on the condition of that population since the town of Nisch has come into the possession of Servia.

The Ottoman ex-Consul, General Nicolaïdes Effendi, has been good enough to communicate to me a Report he likewise drew up some time ago upon the same subject. Although several of the statements in the latter may appear exaggerated, they bear out the main facts advanced by Mr. Vice-Consul Baker as to the harsh manner in which the Mahommedans have been treated by the Servian military and civil authorities.

I have therefore thought it advisable to lose no time in laying these two interesting Reports (copies of which are herewith inclosed) before Her Majesty's Government, in order that they may become fully acquainted with all the real facts of the case.

I have, however, the satisfaction of forwarding at the same time the copy of a despatch of recent date from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker stating that, since the removal of the late Prefect of Nisch, a marked improvement has taken place in the condition, not only of the few remaining Mussulman inhabitants, but also of the Jewish population, of his Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Sir, *Nisch, September* 20, 1879.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch of the 15th August last with reference to the condition of the Mussulman population of Nisch, I beg to report as follows:—

From careful inquiries I have made I estimate the population of Nisch before and after the Servian annexation as follows:—

Population under Turkish Rule.

Christians	10,000
Mahommedans, including garrison and a small proportion of Albanians	8,000
Circassians	300
Jews	700
	19,000
Mosques in the fortress	4
Mosques in the town	11
	15

Population under Servian Rule.

Christians	12,000
Mahommedans	300
Circassians	Nil
Jews	700
	13,000
Mosques destroyed by Servian authorities	11
About to be destroyed	1
Still standing	3
	15

2. The accompanying plan marked A of the town and fortress of Nisch indicates by the black lines Nisch as it was at the date of the annexation, and by the coloured lines the alterations projected and partly carried out by the Servian authorities as mentioned in the paragraph 9 of this Report.

3. On the surrender of the town of Nisch, the Turks with their wives and families retired into the fortress. In their absence their houses were plundered by the Servian soldiers and townspeople. On the subsequent surrender of the fortress many Turkish women were insulted by the soldiery, and the Mufti was stripped of all that was valuable, including his purse, his fur robe, and his decorations. The Turks left the fortress without removing any of their movable property, the Servian General promising to guard it, and transport it to the town, but this promise was never fulfilled, and General Belimarkovitch appears to have denied all knowledge of the property and promise.

4. The Christians at once plundered and destroyed several hundred Turkish houses in the town and neighbourhood, especially in Arnaut Bazar and on the banks of the Nishava. Arnaut Bazar was occupied chiefly by Turks and Albanians, and was ultimately razed to the ground, those houses which were spared by the population being subsequently condemned and destroyed by the local authorities as unsafe.

5. The Servians had their camp at the south end of the town near Palilula (see Plan A), a quarter erected under Midhat Pasha's orders for some of the Turks who left Belgrade after the bombardment of 1862. The Servian soldiers used 150 of the houses of this quarter, built chiefly of wood as firewood. (The word "Palilula" signifies "burning pipe," and the Servian jest here for burning a house was lighting a pipe.)

6. Such of the mosques as were not required for magazines were demolished, the Servian policy being, apparently, to destroy the Turkish character and appearance of the town. Only one mosque is now in the possession of the Turks, *i.e.*, in Belgradaka Mala (Little Belgrade) on the right bank of the Nishava and the west side of the fortress (see Plan A).

7. Demolitions, *en masse*, of Turkish houses were systematically resumed, in some cases, without even a pretence or form of justice, but in most cases under the pretext of the Turkish houses being unsafe.

8. The materials of the condemned houses were sold by auction by the authorities at nominal prices, no notice being given except by the beating of a drum. As an instance of the nominal character of these prices, it may be stated that an almost new house, purchased by its owner for 300 ducats (146*l.*), was sold for 20 ducats (9*l.* 15*s.*). Another, worth 20,000 piastres (about 166*l.*), was sold for 900 piastres (about 7*l.* 10*s.*).

Last year the Servian authorities appointed a Commission consisting of a special engineer, the county engineer, the district engineer, the Prefect of Nisch, and three members of the "opshtina" (commune) to devise a plan for regulating the streets which, as a matter of fact, were both crooked and narrow. The Plan A was carried by the engineer and Prefect, but the three members of the "opshtina" (commune) declined to sign it on the ground that it involved the almost entire rebuilding of Nisch. Nevertheless, the plan was adopted, and the execution of the work was entrusted solely to one person, the engineer Winter. The Expropriation Law not enabling the plan to be carried out with sufficient speed, the authorities determined (1) that all houses lying within the line should be condemned as unsafe, so as to bring them within the law enabling the authorities to remove unsafe buildings; (2) the buildings being removed, the sites should be dealt with under the Expropriation Law. The frontage lines have been almost daily altered, the engineer receiving bribes to spare particular houses. The widening of the principal street running north and south through the middle of the town was necessary, as it was in many places too narrow to allow vehicles to pass each other, but even this improvement was not carried out unexceptionally. The street wound its way round the principal mosque, "Pasha Djamia," and the authorities, instead of pulling down the houses in the direct line (which were all old and of wood), diverted the line to the site of the mosque, which they razed, using the materials, stone and marble, for other buildings, and for repairing the roads.

10. Most of the condemned houses were either Turkish or Hebrew, but Christian houses, whose owners were obnoxious to the local authorities, were also condemned. The konak of the Bishop Metropolitan—a large house in the Turkish style—was demolished for a street improvement, but the Bishop was at the time obnoxious, having refused the local authorities' request that he should advance them 1,000 ducats. The demolition of this konak was desirable, in order to obtain a straight line, but was not necessary for widening the street, as the property on the other side of the road consisted of one-storey houses built principally of wood and was of small value.

11. As will be seen from paragraph 1 *supra*, the Turks have emigrated *en masse*. The reasons are:—

(*a.*) The violent and scandalous character of the local Administration, on the surrender, arbitrary arrests, floggings, and robberies having been perpetrated by the officials themselves.

(*b.*) The demolition of the Turkish houses left their owners no dwelling-place.

(*c.*) Rich Turks have preferred removing across the frontier to waiting for improvement in the Local Government.

12. On quitting Nisch the Turks hired arabas, oxen, and horses from Christians, in order to transport their bedding and other necessary household effects. In some cases, though there is no evidence of many, these hired waggons were never returned.

13. The Turkish officials are in like manner charged with taking the money from the public Treasuries; but as those Treasuries had been drained by war requirements, and could not have contained much more than the 500,000 piastres (about 4,100*l.*) handed over to the Servian General Ljeshenin.

14. Many Turks, on quitting the annexed territory, sold their landed property at almost nominal prices. This may be traced to a fear that the Servian local authorities would not do justice—a fear which subsequent events proved to be not ill-founded.

15. Other Turks, to the number of several hundreds, left their houses without waiting to make any arrangements for letting or selling them. Those that remain undemolished have been taken possession of by the "opshtina" (commune), and let by auction at low rents. Jews were not allowed to bid. The rents are said to be lying in the local Treasury.

16. The compensation for land taken for street improvement is to be made in land adjacent, when possible, otherwise in land lying on the north and on the south sides of the town (marked on Plan A as "Proposed new Sites"). The railway-station is to be built on part of one or other of these sites, and the site actually selected will, when the railway is completed, be of considerable value; the other site will not be materially enhanced beyond its present value, which, from its lying outside the town, is not great. Both these sites belong to the Opshtina (Commune). The compensation for houses demolished will, in all probability, not exceed the proceeds of the sale of the old materials, as the Opshtina has no money in hand, and no apparent means of raising money beyond its ordinary requirements.

17. The adjudication of compensation is to be made by Commissions, but, unless such Commissions be differently constituted than is at present the practice, their decisions, in cases where either Turks or Jews are interested, will not be entitled to much respect. It seems almost impossible for Commissions, composed entirely or principally of Christians, to do justice to their neighbours of different races and creeds. But, assuming an unexceptionable constitution of the Commissions, there would still remain the difficulty with regard to evidence. The houses have already been razed, and, in many cases, the foundations have been excavated and the sites levelled, so as to leave no trace of the boundaries of either houses, or yards, or gardens. The Commission will, therefore, be compelled to accept evidence of recollections which, even when *bonâ fide*, will be sure to differ widely, and which unscrupulous persons may feign to suit their own ends and interests. And when the compensation shall have been ultimately ascertained, the difficulty of payment (as mentioned in paragraph 16) will still remain.

18. There were at the time of the surrender of Nisch upwards of 150 private houses in the fortress (most of them, in the principal street, running north and south; see Plan A). All but about 30 of these houses have been demolished by the Servian authorities, and the remainder are occupied by Servian officials. The Turkish owners of these 150 houses have not as yet received compensation.

19. The titles to these 150 houses are difficult of proof as the "tapica" (muniments) were seized by the Servian authorities, with the furniture and other effects found in the houses at the time of the surrender. But the titles were registered at Constantinople, and certified copies of the muniments may be obtainable from that source. The Servian authorities claim all real property within the fortress walls as public property belonging to the State, by virtue of the conditions of the surrender. But this claim appears insupportable with regard to the houses in question, as the titles thereto are ancient titles, which could not be defeated by the military surrender of the fortifications and other public works and buildings within the walls.

20. I have had many conversations with the members of the two Commissions (under the Presidency of M. Spasitch and M. Vonicvitch) appointed by the Servian Government to investigate the rights of the various proprietors and others interested in

tchifliks (villages or larger estates). From what I have heard in these conversations, and from other sources, I believe these Commissions have collected an enormous mass of evidence on the agrarian question; but the evidence is almost exclusively on the side of the Christians, and abounds in grave imputations on the inception of the titles of the Turkish landlords, fraud, forgery, and force being freely alleged against them or their predecessors in title. There is, in some instances no doubt, some truth in these allegations; but it seems obvious, that evidence so collected from persons interested, and not subjected to cross examination, is not of a highly valuable character. The members of these Commissions lay great stress on the fact of the Turks having burnt the towns and villages in the Timok Valley in 1876, and seem to regard those sad events as sufficient justification for confiscating Turkish property. And their Reports (which will be laid before the Skuptchina in November or December next) may (as regards the "vakouf") be taken as the Servian case to be brought before the Mixed Turco-Servian Commission, to be constituted under Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin. These views as to confiscation are not peculiar to the members of these Commissions, but are common to all Servian officials with whom I have come in contact.

21. The number of tchifliks (manors) in this neighbourhood which are in possession of Servians, and claimed by Turks, may be estimated at from 80 to 100. The relative rights between the owners and the occupiers of the soil vary considerably. In some cases the peasants have enjoyed rights equal to those of copyholders of inheritance; in others their tenure seems to have been of a precarious, undefined, and most unsatisfactory character. The Servian Government intends to bring before the Skuptchina a proposal to commute the rights of the Turkish landlords for an annual rent-charge or for a capital sum payable with interest by equal instalments extending over a period of from ten to twenty-five years. The Turks appear to be favourable to the principle of this scheme, though the peasants seem to hope for a sweeping measure more or less confiscating in its nature.

22. The Servian Courts of law may be said to be entirely closed to Turks and Jews (except as defendants). Many have come to me to complain that they are driven away from the Court-house and cannot obtain redress for wrongs against person or property. A few instances will illustrate this:—

(*a.*) Ten months ago Sugartiki Hadji Ali Bey and his son were murdered in their house in the Turkish quarter north of Nisch, known as "Little Belgrade," and the murderers stole 120,000 piastres (about 1,000*l.*). The police did not succeed in apprehending the murderers, but, curiously enough, did succeed in recovering the money. The representatives of the murdered men have often applied for the money, but have been put off with promises which are never fulfilled.

(*b.*) The Mufti was assaulted and robbed (as stated in paragraph 3). He has never been able to obtain any satisfaction. He is also not allowed to sue the peasants on his tchifliks, although they have paid no rent since the annexation.

(*c.*) A Turkish widow, on coming out of the fortress, found that all her furniture had been stolen. She discovered the thieves and informed the police, but she was not allowed to prosecute them.

23. Nisch has been unfortunate in her Servian local officials. One of the first committed brutal outrages and was ultimately shot, not perhaps wholly in respect of these outrages, for he was suspected of being a partizan of Karageorgevitch. The present Prefect, Kosta Pavlovitch, has also carried out a policy of systematic oppression, and although he has not been guilty of arbitrary arrests and illegal corporal punishments like the official above mentioned, he has resorted to arbitrary and illegal means for enriching himself at the expense of the inhabitants, especially the Turkish inhabitants.

24. For the outrages committed on the surrender of Nisch, the responsibility appears to lie between the Servian Generals in command (Ljeshenin, and afterwards Belimarkovitch) and the Servian Government. But for the system of maladministration which has since obtained, and especially with regard to the demolitions for alleged unsafety and for street improvements, the responsibility lies with the Prefect, Pavlovitch, and these influential persons who have supported him in spite of the numerous complaints of the townspeople of all creeds, and in a less degree with the engineer in charge of the regulations, who has found in the system of wholesale demolitions opportunities for demanding bribes. The number of houses in Nisch at the time of the surrender may be estimated at 4,000, and of these about 1,300 have been burnt and demolished either wholly or in greater part. At least one-half of these demolitions have been either wanton or unnecessary, and those which have been effected in the course of the street improvements have been frequently made by straining, evading, or breaking the law.

And in order to prevent actions or prosecutions in respect of these illegal acts, advocates have been forbidden to practice in the local Courts or even to stay in the town for more than twenty-four hours. I fear no amelioration can be expected of the local Administration so long as the present Prefect, Aosta Pavlovitch, is retained in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

Annex.

Plan of the Town and Fortress of Nisch.

Inclosure 2 in No. 195.

M. Nicolaides to Mr. Gould.

Excellence, *Nisch, le 23 Novembre,* 1879.

QUOIQUE je sois fort persuadé que votre Excellence n'ignore point la question Albanaise, je me permets cependant de lui soumettre la copie du Rapport que j'ai expédié à mon Ministre, son Excellence Sermed Effendi, pour savoir si tout ce que j'ai écrit touchant cette question peut être digne de l'approbation de votre Excellence, et c'est dans ce but que je m'empresse de lui exposer que, avant l'annexation de Nisch à la Serbie, il y avait environ 300 maisons habitées par 1,500 Albanais dans un quartier tout-à-fait séparé, lequel fut aussi, pour cette raison, appelé "Arnaoût Mahallessi."

Toutes ces maisons étaient des propriétés de ces Albanais dont plusieurs étaient des richards; une vingtaine de ces derniers ont, avant cette annexion, vendu leurs maisons et se sont rendus en Turquie; ceux qui étaient restés ont, à l'approche des armées Serbes, quitté leurs habitations et se sont réfugiés, comme tant d'autres Musulmans, dans la forteresse, pour se garantir de l'attaque des troupes Serbes; mais lorsque l'armée Serbe est entrée à Nisch et en a voulu prendre possession, tous ceux qui s'étaient réfugiés dans la forteresse ont dû la quitter et en sortir pour rentrer chez eux, sous la promesse sacrée des Chefs de cette armée que le bien, la propriété, et l'honneur des habitants en général seraient respectés et protégés.

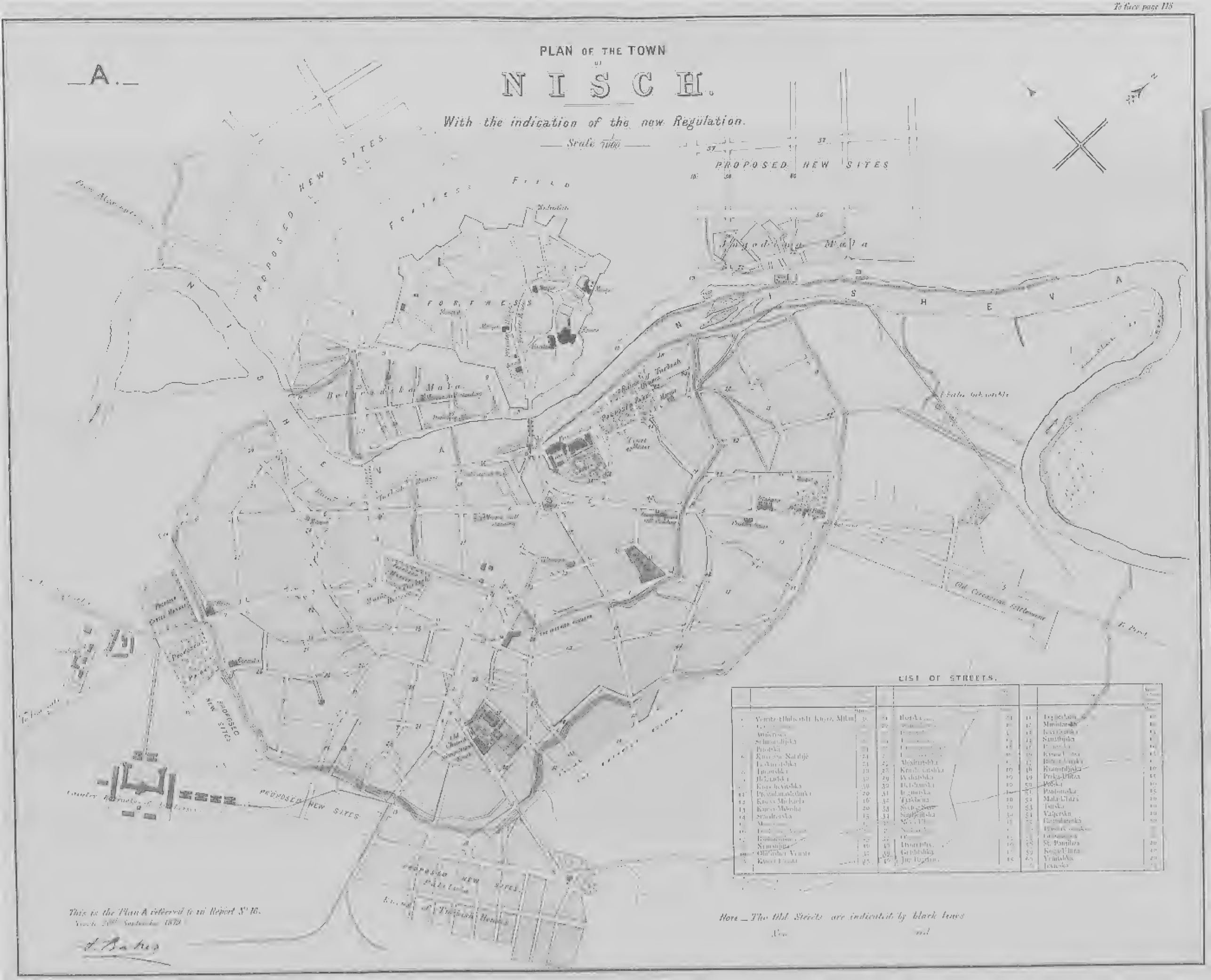
Quelques jours après toutes les maisons Albanaises ainsi que celles des pur sang Musulmans ont été assaillies, lapidées, et dévalisées par les Bulgares et les Serbes, qui voulaient à toute force se saisir aussi de leurs armes.

Les Albanais, indignés de ce procédé, les uns ont jeté leurs armes au fleuve Nichava, pour avoir la consolation de ne point les rendre, les autres ont eu recours aux Chefs de l'armée Serbe, réclamant leurs biens pillés et ravagés par les Bulgares et les Serbes qui avaient même commencé à défaire et à brûler leurs habitations, contrairement aux promesses qui leur avaient été données.

A cette plainte, les Chefs de l'armée Serbe ont promis aux plaignants de trouver les malfaiteurs, d'en prendre tout ce que ceux-ci avaient volé et emporté, et de le faire déposer dans la cathédrale où seraient appelés tous ceux à qui les effets et les meubles appartenaient pour les rendre à chacun de ceux qui reconnaîtraient les leurs.

En effet, les Chefs de l'armée s'en étant occupés ont retrouvé tous les biens pillés et enlevés impunément, qu'aucun de ceux-ci fût arrêté, ils les ont fait déposer dans la cathédrale, comme ils l'avaient promis, et ils y ont fait venir tous les propriétaires, dont chacun a reconnu très-distinctement ses meubles et ses effets qu'on leur avait volés; mais au lieu de les leur restituer, les Chefs de l'armée Serbe, après avoir persuadé les réclamants que dans deux jours au plus tard ils trouveraient tous chez eux, en ont expédié une bonne partie à Belgrade et le reste dans l'intérieur de la Serbie pour meubler, à ce qu'il paraît, les appartements des autorités Serbes.

Vu donc la façon perfide et injuste de la part de ces officiers de l'armée Serbe qui avaient promis de rendre chacun de ceux à qui on avait enlevé les biens, considérant


A.
PLAN OF THE TOWN
NISCH.
With the indication of the new Regulation.
Scale 1/7000
PROPOSED NEW SITES
FORTRESS
FORTRESS FIELD
PROPOSED NEW SITES
PROPOSED NEW SITES
PROPOSED NEW SITES
PROPOSED NEW SITES
Old Cercasian Settlement
LIST OF STREETS.
This is the Plan A referred to in Report No 16.
Hove — The Old Streets are indicated by black lines

aussi qu'au lieu de faire respecter et protéger les biens, les propriétés et l'honneur des pur sang Musulmans et des Albanais, ils permettaient, non contents de ce qu'on avait déjà enlevé, pillé et emporté, et qu'on avait brûlé, démoli et défait un grand nombre de maisons Turco-Albanaises, la continuation de dévaliser, de piller, de brûler, de défaire, de maltraiter, d'outrages, et enfin de jeter même au cachot, les mains liées sur le dos et avec beaucoup de tortures, tous ceux qui ne voulaient pas céder aux malfaiteurs l'or et l'argent qu'ils possédaient; les Albanais se sont alors décidé de se présenter une dernière fois aux officiers Serbes pour savoir où allaient aboutir tous ces désordres.

Pour toute réponse les officiers Serbes leur ont fait comprendre que s'ils ne quittaient pas le territoire Serbe dans dix jours au plus tard ils seraient tous fusillés.

Voila donc, M. le Ministre, les raisons pour lesquelles les 1,500 Albanais qui habitaient paisiblement Nisch ont dû, pour sauver au moins la vie à leurs enfants et à leurs familles, quitter le pays en emportant avec eux autant qu'ils ont pu, une partie de leurs effets, et laissant tout le reste: biens, maisons et terrains à l'abandon, dont la valeur approximative s'élève environ à 2,000,000 piastres.

De toutes ces maisons il n'en reste aujourd'hui qu'une quarantaine, tout le reste fut, immédiatement après le départ des Albanais, démoli par les officiers Serbes, qui en ont vendu les matériaux et en ont encaissé l'argent.

Quant aux Albanais qui habitaient les villages de Lescoftcha, soit de Urkupé, soit enfin de Crouchoumlé, d'après les renseignements que j'ai pu acquérir par des personnes dignes de foi, les trois quarts de cette population avaient quitté leurs foyers avant l'arrivée même des armées Serbes dans ces localites, et lorsqu'elles en ont pris possession, elles avaient promis aux Albanais de les laisser vivre tranquillement dans leurs foyers, de respecter leur religion, leurs biens et leurs proprietés, pourvu que ceux qui avait abandonnés leurs terres fussent rentrés.

Ces Albanais, confiants dans les promesses des Serbes, sont tous retournés chez eux et aussitôt qu'ils en ont pris possession, les Serbes ont invité, sous prétexte de faire une assemblée pour les mesures à prendre sur l'amélioration du pays, les plus notables et les plus braves des Albanais lesquels, s'étant rendus aux lieux désignés, ont été tous fusillés. Non contents de ce procédé malin, les Serbes ont commencé depuis lors à démolir et à brûler les habitations Albanaises, à piller dans leurs biens, à désarmer tous les Albanais, et à continuer enfin à les fusiller en plein jour dans les rues des villages où ils les rencontraient, puisque tous ceux qui sortaient de leurs habitations pour aller au marché, soit pour leurs affaires, soit pour faire leurs provisions, étant saisis par les Serbes, ne revenaient plus chez eux; de sorte que toutes les familles avaient à déplorer presque tous les jours la perte tantôt d'un père de famille, tantôt d'un fils, tantôt d'un frère, et tantôt enfin des parents qui se perdaient continuellement sans savoir ce qu'ils devenaient.

Ce fut donc ce mode de mauvais procédé des Serbes et surtout des Bulgares qui a déterminé les Albanais à se soulever contre les Serbes et les Bulgares, à abandonner leurs biens, leurs terrains, et leurs foyers, et enfin à s'échapper d'une extermination certaine.

J'ai pu me convaincre par des Albanais mêmes avec qui j'ai eu maintes fois l'occasion de m'entretenir, que tant que leurs habitations ne leur soient rendues dans l'état qu'ils les ont laissées et qu'il ne leur soit permis de rentrer dans leurs foyers et de jouir de leurs terres comme auparavant, ils ne cesseront jamais de tuer, d'assassiner, de dépouiller tous les Serbes et les Bulgares qu'ils recontreraient; de ravager leurs terres et de leur enlever les boufs, les moutons, et les chaus, qu'ils trouveraient devant eux, parce que, privés de leurs terres qui sont les seules resources qui leur donnaient de quoi vivre, ils cherchent par ce moyen à subsister.

J'ai eu, en outre, l'occasion de me faire avouer qu'ils vivraient très-tranquillement dans leurs foyers et en bonne entente et harmonie avec leur voisinage pourvu que la Serbie leur garantisse la sécurité de leur vie, de leur honneur, et de leurs biens.

Entendu donc cette dernière confession et persuadé de la réalisation de leur promesse, j'ose avancer à votre Excellence que je me charge de cette mission, quoique bien difficile et épineuse, si votre Excellence et la Sublime Porte approuvent ma proposition, et si la Serbie donne les garanties rassurantes pour la sécurité sus-mentionnée avec une compensation aux Albanais pour leur avoir démoli et brûlé les propriétés et enlevé les biens.

Pour ce qui regarde les noms des villages, le nombre des Albanais, et celui de leurs

maisons, ainsi que la quantité de ceux qui sont restés, de ceux qui ont été fusillés et assassinés, et de ceux enfin qui sont partis en abandonnant leurs foyers, leurs biens, et leurs terres, votre Excellence verra toutes ces indications dans les Tableaux que je viens de dresser à cet effet, et qu'elle trouvera ci-inclus sous les Nos. 6, 7, et 8.

Quant aux renseignements que votre Excellence désirerait avoir pour se persuader de ce qui précède, je suis prêt à les lui soumettre dès qu'elle me l'ordonnera.

En attendant, &c.

(Signé) T. NICOLAIDES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 195.

TABLEAU comprenant le nombre des villages et des maisons qui étaient occupés par la population Albanaise dans l'arrondissement de Lescoftcha, celui des habitants et celui de ceux qui sont restés dans leurs habitations, de ceux qui ont quitté leurs foyers, et de ceux enfin qui ont été fusillés et morts dans les prisons.

Dénomination des Villages.	Nombre des Maisons.	Nombre des Habitants.	Ceux qui sont Restés dans leurs Foyers.	Ceux qui ont Quitté leurs Habitations.	Ceux qui ont été Fusillés ou Morts dans les Prisons.	Observations.
Semertché	3	30	..	29	1	A été fusillé.
Agrichta	15	130	..	127	5	Dont 3 fusillés; 2 morts en prison.
Bira	60	380	60	300	..	
Gergorofteha ..	40	200	40	140	20	Ceux-ci ont été fusillés.
Topofteha	30	150	50	100	..	
Ivronotcha ..	45	210	10	160	40	Ceux-ci ont été fusillés.
Carivatcha.. ..	32	192	92	60	40	De ceux-ci 30 ont été fusillés, et 10 morts en prison.
Coulapek	50	250	15	235	..	
Tsodirtch	30	180	..	180	..	
Bouftcha	50	500	150	350	..	
Dirvoudek.. ..	35	230	30	200	..	
——oupla	40	280	84	196	..	
Zirtokat	10	60	..	60	..	
Balatokat	15	75	..	75	..	
Dedik	40	360	..	360	..	
Pouponchutcha ..	30	180	80	100	..	
Chilvé	60	600	60	540	..	
Grabunteha ..	15	90	30	60	..	
Capicha	30	240	68	172	..	
Tchirno	60	480	80	400	..	
Rouvikoutcha ..	40	200	..	200	..	
Radinoutcha ..	15	95	40	55	..	
Boutchmet.. ..	60	420	20	400	..	
Lapnoutcha. ..	30	180	..	180	..	
Ghaïtan	30	210	..	210	..	
Ramnichta.. ..	20	100	..	100	..	
Chilouva	15	95	..	95	..	
Tchirvoulik ..	25	155	..	155	..	
Lescoftcha.. ..	180	1,800	400	1,000	400	Ces derniers 400 ont tous été passés au fil de l'épée, et toutes leurs maisons et boutiques ont été défaites et brûlées.
Bérachur	30	160	20	160	..	
Virtoupa	10	80	..	80	..	
Dranitcha	30	180	..	180	..	
Islichca	60	480	60	420	..	
Ghalla	20	160	..	160	..	
Tchtultcha	30	180	..	180	..	
Savaritcha.. ..	15	75	..	75	..	
Coudroli	10	60	..	55	5	Ces derniers 5 ont été fusillés.
Verboutcha	10	60	..	60	..	
Perekoutché ..	20	140	..	140	..	
Rassouvatcha ..	10	100	..	100	..	
Rutuné	25	155	55	100	..	
Charitché	10	50	..	50	..	
Mirousé	5	35	..	35	..	
Miklalitcha ..	30	210	35	175	..	
Camitcha	20	140	..	140	..	
Rounik	15	75	..	75	..	
Tchirkovitcha ..	20	160	60	100	..	
Zirkouvitcha ..	35	240	..	240	..	
Balakonibutcha ..	20	120	40	80	..	
Izlata	20	100	..	100	..	
Boretchdjé ..	20	140	40	100	..	
Aslanuik	25	175	..	175	..	
Boghazni						
Toryan	30	180	80	100	..	
Luczan	25	150	40	110	..	
Axran	30	210	..	210	..	

Dénomination des Villages.	Nombre des Maisons.	Nombre des Habitants.	Ceux qui sont Restés dans leurs Foyers.	Ceux qui ont Quitté leurs Habitations.	Ceux qui ont été Fusillés ou Morts dans les Prisons.	Observations.
Vouyanova ..	15	95	..	95	..	
Mallkoutcha ..	10	50	..	50	..	
Bourintcha ..	30	180	..	180	..	
Obrachda	20	120	..	120	..	
Ivinia	30	180	..	180	..	
Diroghadin ..	20	140	..	140	..	
Meghiasin	30	180	..	180	..	
Birstoutcha ..	30	215	..	215	..	
Bubilitcha ..	60	420	..	420	..	
Baraghonia ..	20	100	50	50	..	
Jinotook	40	280	35	245	..	
Kourutcha	15	75	..	75	..	
Merlak	20	120	..	120	..	
Couchnitcha ..	20	100	..	100	..	
Matchina	10	60	..	60	..	
Hommtchilé ..	30	180	..	180	..	
Granitcha	10	60	..	60	..	
Kinconitcha ..	15	105	..	105	..	
Douboura	65	395	95	300	..	
Zirkerina	30	180	..	180	..	
Balaberina ..	20	100	..	100	..	
Istopla	40	240	..	240	..	
Boudronnitcha ..	15	75	..	75	..	
Kassal	30	60	..	60	..	
Lampatofcha ..	40	280	35	245	..	
Kimkinchani ..	15	75	..	75	..	
Perdiritcha ..	15	75	..	75	..	
Dercnoutcha ..	10	50	..	50	..	
Hesnotcha ..	15	95	..	95	..	
Toplanoutcha ..	20	120	..	120	..	
Plaftcha	15	75	..	75	..	
Litcha	10	50	..	50	..	
Total, 87	2,145	16,327	1,954	13,862	511	

Résumé.

On voit d'après le contenu de ces trois pièces qui constituent le Tableau des villages, des maisons, et des Albanais qui habitaient dans l'Arrondissement de Lescoftcha, que le nombre des villages est de 87, celui des maisons s'élève à 2,145, et celui des habitants Albanais à 16,327, dont 1,954 sont restés dans leurs foyers, 511 ont été fusillés et morts dans les prisons, et 13,862 ont quitté leurs villages, laissant à l'abandon maisons, biens, terrains, et boutiques, dont la plupart ont été démolis, brûlés et ruinés immédiatement après leur départ par les Serbes et Bulgares.

TABLEAU contenant les indications des villages et des maisons occupés par la population Albanaise, qui habitait dans l'arrondissement de Urkuipe, du nombre de cette population, et celui de ceux qui ont quitté leurs foyers en abandonnant leurs biens, et de ceux enfin qui sont morts dans le combat.

Dénomination des Villages.	Nombre des Maisons.	Nombre des Habitants Albanais.	Ceux qui ont Quitté leur Pays.	Ceux qui sont Morts dans le Combat.	Observations.
Douchouloufteha ..	30	210	200	10	
Dofteha	20	120	120	..	
Novissil	10	100	95	5	
Kinsuriteha	6	35	28	7	
Tchicouk	20	200	180	20	
Conrountcha	4	25	20	5	
Constantcha	10	90	90	..	
Petrofteha	30	210	202	8	
Courdonteha	10	80	73	7	
Balacourdanteha ..	15	100	85	15	
Baltchintcha	13	80	80	..	
Micalofteha	20	200	170	30	
Balasuiteha	12	100	100	..	
Lerinteha	7	45	40	5	
Balatournova	40	100	98	2	

Dénomination des Villages.	Nombre des Maisons.	Nombre des Habitants Albanais.	Ceux qui ont Quitté leur Pays.	Ceux qui sont Morts dans le Combat.	Observations.
Obachintcha	2	15	15	..	
Zirotchitché	10	90	87	3	
Balaretchitcha	10	90	90	..	
Boulatoufteha	20	180	160	20	
Zirbilané	30	180	171	9	
Diranoutcha	12	110	100	10	
Ressinteha	20	190	184	6	
Merouftcha	35	220	202	18	
Balabilané	150	1,020	1,000	20	
Birsinteha	20	180	180	..	
Balabirsintcha	10	70	70	..	
Makierah	20	180	162	18	
Balaïskartcha	45	280	260	20	
Zirkachaïtcha	20	180	167	13	
Balabachaïtcha	80	650	597	53	
Counih	10	70	70	..	
Kinouchn	40	150	139	11	
Biressitchna	15	120	120	..	
Balaviraghocho ..	65	400	378	22	
Ichlemanié	30	210	202	8	
Makiusa	20	170	170	..	
Berebechné	40	230	207	23	
Yedveritcha	60	600	581	19	
Ichtovila	20	180	180	..	
Bélateha	35	230	207	23	
Vibouftcha	60	550	503	47	
Bouboufteha	20	170	170	..	
Zirbercbize	20	150	134	16	
Balabirebidze	30	190	190	..	
Tchimountché	15	120	120	..	
Tchouteboula	15	110	100	10	
Soumunitcha	45	300	280	20	
Rachitcha	20	150	133	17	
Mouzak	30	270	240	30	
Bouzoura	10	70	70	..	
Birelé	20	150	141	9	
Yachitcha	25	210	210	..	
Doubcrounik	20	120	120	..	
Bilené	10	70	70	..	
Ghouyeniki	20	150	150	..	
Zirtiubintcha	25	200	183	17	
Balatiubintcha	10	80	80	..	
Birecadik	40	210	195	15	
Ghouvinoufteha ..	10	70	70	..	
Chichhonoufteha ..	15	120	120	..	
Youynchintcha ..	20	160	145	15	
Birofchinteha	10	60	60	..	
Pascalé	20	180	161	19	
Kinchentché	25	210	193	17	
Mirlaké	30	260	207	53	
Yayoutché	10	70	70	..	
Yourintcha	15	90	90	..	
Lerinteha	7	40	40	..	
Merofteha	30	200	181	19	
Mouzak	35	310	289	21	
Birá-kul	47	289	246	43	
Kinstentché	29	210	198	12	
Total, 72	1,785	13,239	12,468	771	

Résumé.

On conçoit du contenu de ces trois pièces qui forment le Tableau indiquant les villages habités par la population Albanaise dans l'arrondissement de Urkuipe, que le nombre de ces villages s'élève à 72, celui des maisons à 1,785, et celui de la population à 13,239, dont 12,468 ont quitté leurs foyers, et 771 ont péris dans le combat.

TABLEAU contenant le nombre des villages et des maisons habités par les Albanais, qui se trouvaient dans l'arrondissement de Crouchoumli, le nombre de ces habitants, celui de ceux qui ont quitté leurs habitations, et celui de ceux enfin qui sont tués ou morts en combat.

Dénomination des Villages.	Nombre des Maisons.	Nombre des Habitants.	Ceux qui ont Quitté leur Pays.	Ceux qui sont Morts dans le Combat.	Observations.
Toula	12	100	100	..	
Biloubin	30	160	150	10	
Troghoucha	25	180	165	15	
Batcha	40	280	258	22	
Coultra	25	160	160	..	
Tchoungula	25	200	200	..	
Bainoufteha	15	110	100	10	
Bitourkiaâ	20	200	183	17	
Triania	40	300	274	26	
Barbatoukteha	60	560	500	60	
Ghergher	80	705	686	19	
Coukloufteha	25	200	200	..	
Tmalé	35	300	278	22	
Istiifteha	30	260	240	20	
Jainconvik	25	100	100	..	
Cumioufteha	30	250	239	11	
Vielé-solou	15	90	90	..	
Biloudjuin	90	240	203	37	
Virchektché	10	70	70	..	
Bluboulé	20	160	152	8	
Nouvissil	30	170	170	..	
Rauelitché	15	120	100	20	
Matchcoutché	25	210	210	..	
Zirnekouba	6	40	40	..	*Sic in orig.*
Zirnekoulan	7	44	44	..	
Istirik	10	80	80	..	
Dougboulouka	15	110	97	13	
Vancobek	10	70	70	..	
Loussel	8	60	60	..	
Birounka	25	260	207	53	
Bireskoteha	10	70	70	..	
Birestofteha	5	30	30	..	
Vilasta	30	270	249	21	
Troutcha	25	210	193	17	
Vatchavel	40	320	309	11	
Nevada	10	60	60	..	
Agrichta	30	250	213	37	
Toutchan	60	550	508	42	
Bonghikitcha	20	170	170	..	
Gharaboubteha	30	260	239	21	
Lousna	10	70	70	..	
Canalman	12	100	100	..	
Cantch	12	100	100	..	
Kinoucha	25	210	210	..	
Bresta	10	80	80	..	
Tirnourlahi	15	120	120	..	
Dedénitcha	35	300	271	29	
Touvirlanô	30	260	243	17	
Arnaütchka	20	180	164	16	
Kouzmoulé	20	190	169	21	
Mihané	50	410	378	32	
Kisrata	10	90	90	..	
Voussouka	25	210	200	10	
Loumanteha	20	190	177	13	
Louché	25	220	205	15	
Déchichka	10	70	70	..	
Coulza	15	120	103	17	
Bouboutchteha	40	300	269	31	
Douditcha	25	210	198	12	
Tchouktcha	8	60	60	..	
Banska	25	210	200	10	
Virila	25	210	202	8	
Chatra	20	170	163	7	
Zlerouvé	25	220	200	20	
Mertitché	30	270	230	40	
Rastitcha	10	100	100	..	

Dénomination des Villages.	Nombre des Maisons.	Nombre des Habitants.	Ceux qui ont Quitté leur Pays.	Ceux qui sont Morts dans le Combat.	Observations.
Bardoudja	3	15	15	..	
Bakoughilva	10	70	70	..	
Total, 66	1,563	12,734	11,924	810	

Résumé.

Vu le contenu de ces deux pièces qui constituent le Tableau démontrant les villages, les maisons, et la population Albanaise qui habitait dans les alentours dépendants du département de Crouchoumli, le nombre de ces villages est 66, celui des maisons s'élève à 1,563, et celui de la population à 12,734, dont les 11,024 ont quitté leurs foyers, et les 810 sont tombés morts au champ de bataille.

Toutes leurs propriétés ont passé à la possession des peuples Serbes et Bulgares, qui les ont toutes brûlées, démolies, et ruinées.

Inclosure 4 in No. 195.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Gould.

Nisch, November 28, 1879.

Sir,

REFERRING to my Report No. 16 on the condition of the Mussulman population of this district, I have the pleasure to inform you that since the removal of the Prefect, Kosta S. Pavlovitch, the local Administration has greatly improved under his successor, Mr. Jovan Babitch, late Prefect of Alexinatz, a gentleman who, by his impartiality, has secured the confidence of the inhabitants of all classes and creeds. The effects of the maladministration of Mr. Pavlovitch remain, but it may be confidently hoped that the energetic and just administration inaugurated by his successor will, in course of time, efface them. Mr. Babitch has countermanded all his predecessor's arbitrary orders for demolition of houses, and, on account of the inclemency of the weather, he has suspended the work of regulating the streets till the spring. In the meantime the Skuptchina will have considered the matter, and he hopes to be then able to resume the work in a manner which will be more satisfactory to the town and to the individual owners, whose interests are affected by the works.

The foregoing remarks do not refer in any way to the agrarian question, which remain *in statu quo*. The Skuptchina has been occupied twelve days with the consideration of the Address in reply to Prince Milan's Speech from the Throne, and with the affairs which have led to the retirement of the Minister of Finance, and has had no opportunity for considering the Reports of the Servian Agrarian Commissions or the Servian Government's scheme for the commutation of the territorial rights of the Turkish landlords. (These Reports and scheme are mentioned in paragraphs 20 and 21 of my Report No. 16.)

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BAKER.

No. 196.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 77. Political.)

Canea, Crete, November 23, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 74 of the 11th instant, I had the honour to state that the Mussulman members of the Court of First Instance at Rethymo had refused to attend the Court because they did not approve the choice of a President appointed in conformity with the Organic Law. That difficulty was no sooner surmounted than the Mussulman Assessors of the Court at Candia raised an exactly similar objection, but they finally yielded to the severe remonstrances of the Vali.

The Mahommedans, it is clear, are becoming sore at seeing most of the Courts of Law presided over by Christians, while not so long ago there was but one Christian President in the whole island. The evil is difficult to remedy, for with every desire to distribute judicial posts with impartiality between members of the two communities, Photiades Pasha has found it impossible to discover Mussulmans for these posts possessed of a legal training.

A striking illustration of this difficulty occurred the other day when it was necessary to appoint a Procureur for the Court of First Instance at Candia. Three Mahommedan candidates at once presented themselves for the appointment, desiring, at the same time, that their duties should be explained to them. When their wish was complied with, they all three, recognizing their unfitness, voluntarily withdrew their application.

It has been for some time suspected, and evidence lately brought to light tends to confirm the suspicion, that some leading Mussulmans in Candia and Rethymo as well as here, displeased at the growing influence of the Christians and their own waning power, are adopting as their tactics a policy of obstruction to the action of the Local Government, and that a highly-placed functionary instigates the movement. Should this prove to be the case, his Excellency the Vali is resolved to take stringent measures to nip the evil in the bud. It is intolerable that the experiment now being tried of conducting an autonomous Government endowed with liberal institutions should fail of success owing to the retrograde action of a section of the inhabitants. The balance of power between the two religious communities would be redressed more effectually and with more credit to themselves, if the Mahommedans would set themselves to the task without further delay of remedying their educational deficiencies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 197.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 79. Political.)

Canea, Crete, November 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of another confidential despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard on the subject of the appointment of M. Scalzounis as Procureur-Général in Canea. A copy of the former despatch was inclosed in No. 75, Political, of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 198.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 226. Confidential.)

Sophia, November 30, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have learnt by my despatch No. 224 of the 25th instant, in which I had the honour to transmit a copy of a Circular Note addressed by M. Balabanow to the Diplomatic Agents in this capital, the motives which compelled the Bulgarian Government to prohibit, for the present, the further return of Mussulman emigrants from

Eastern Roumelia. Briefly stated, these were that, owing to the omission of the Porte to furnish the necessary information as to the number and places of residence of the intending immigrants, the season was now too far advanced to take any measures to avert the sufferings and privations, as well as disorders, which the arrival in winter of 18,000 destitute emigrants in localities quite unprepared for their reception, must of necessity entail.

This answer was also communicated to the Sublime Porte which, however, appears not to have found it satisfactory, for, on the 29th instant, a telegram was received from the Ottoman Prime Minister by His Highness Prince Alexander reiterating, in somewhat peremptory language, his demand for the admittance, both by sea and land, of the refugees.

His Highness, in the evening, sent his private Secretary, M. Stoiloff, to show me this telegram, and to express to me, personally, the painful impression it had made on him, as it appeared that all his endeavours to prove his benevolent intentions towards his Mussulman subjects were in vain. His Highness seemed also to resent the tone of the telegram as being wanting in the courtesy usually employed in Diplomatic documents. M. Stoiloff, after saying that the telegram would be officially communicated to myself and my colleagues the next day, concluded by saying that His Highness was desirous of having my advice as to what answer he should send to Saïd Pasha.

I replied that, as far as I could judge, the reasons given in the above-mentioned Circular by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs were a sufficient defence of his conduct in refusing, for the present, the re-entry of the refugees, and that I did not see that His Highness could do more than refer the Sublime Porte to his previous answer, to which, as I pointed out, no allusion was made in the present telegram.

This, Mr. Stoiloff answered, was, he believed, the course which the Prince proposed to adopt. I also promised, in accordance with the Prince's desire, to communicate to your Lordship the painful impression produced on him by the apparent mistrust, on the part of the Porte, of his loyalty and good intentions towards his Mussulman subjects.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a Circular Note from M. Balabanow transmitting copy of Saïd Pasha's telegram to His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 198.

M. Balabanow to Mr. Ashburnham.

M. le Gérant,

Sophia, le 17/29 Novembre, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, comme annexe à la Circulaire relative aux réfugiés Musulmans, en date du 19/29 Novembre courant, la copie d'un télégramme du Premier Ministre Ottoman reçu par Son Altesse hier.

En remettant ce télégramme à votre appréciation je vous prie, M. le Gérant, de bien vouloir le transmettre à votre Gouvernement.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. BALABANOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 198.

Saïd Pasha to Prince Alexander.

(Télégraphique.)

Le 15/27 Novembre, 1879.

LA Sublime Porte vient d'apprendre avec le plus vif regret que les réfugiés Musulmans qui regagnent leurs foyers en Bulgarie, loin de rencontrer de la part des autorités Princières les facilités qui leur sont dues, éprouvent des difficultés à peu près insurmontables que beaucoup d'entre eux se sont vus refuser l'entrée du territoire de la Principauté sur différents points de la frontière, et que des ordres ont été donnés pour qu'ils ne soient admis que s'ils sont munis de passeports visés par des Agents du Gouvernement Princier.

Je ne veux pas discuter aujourd'hui cette question de visa des passeports, que nous examinerons plus tard; mais je demande à votre Altesse, au nom des prescriptions du Traité de Berlin et des principes d'égalité qui y sont proclamés, que des ordres

soient donnés par votre Altesse sur tous les points de la frontière de terre et de mer, pour que tous les réfugiés qui y sont déjà partis pour leurs pays soient admis sans autre formalité sur le territoire de la Principauté, et échappent ainsi au sort affreux auquel les expose le refus qui leur a été opposé, et qu'enfin ils reçoivent dans leur pays toute l'aide et toute la protection que la Sublime Porte a maintes fois déjà proclamés au profit de la population Musulmane.

Je suis fermement convaincu que votre Altesse, dans ses sentiments de loyauté et de justice, voudra bien prendre ma démarche en grande considération, en donnant immédiatement les ordres nécessaires partout où besoin, et je serai heureux d'en recevoir la nouvelle de votre Altesse elle-même.

No. 199.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 23. Consular.)

Sophia, November 30, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Brophy, giving an account of a raid committed by brigands from Eastern Roumelia in the Pravadi district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Palgrave.

Varna, November 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 24th of last month a band of brigands, stated to be forty to fifty in number, armed and mounted, mostly Mussulmans, but amongst whom, the official Report gives out, some were Greeks, on account of their being heard to speak Greek (they may have been Albanians), crossed the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, and coming to the Mussulman village of Tchali Mahalé, near the River Kamtchik, in the district of Pravadi, summoned the principal inhabitants, and making them conduct them to their houses, extorted the sum of about 20,000 piastres.

At the same time there happened to be two Bulgarians in the village, who had come for the purpose of trading. One of these the brigands discovered and hanged; the other was hidden by a Turkish woman in her house, and thus escaped.

Shortly afterwards there arrived two other traders, Greeks. These were stripped of everything worth taking, but suffered no bodily harm.

From Tchali Mahalé the brigands proceeded towards the village of Koti, and on the road encounter three Bulgarians, two being immigrants from the neighbourhood of Kirk-Klissi; these two last were cut to pieces, the other being hanged.

Passing by without entering the village of Koti, they proceed to a village not far distant, where they find four men and one boy, Bulgarians, and one or two Turks; the latter were merely robbed, but the Bulgarians, with the exception of one man and the boy, who managed to hide themselves away, were all killed, as well as the Bulgarian miller who arrived shortly afterwards.

After this the brigands, probably fearing pursuit, recrossed the frontier into Eastern Roumelia.

From the information to hand I make no doubt that the band in question is that headed by Tchoban Hassan, who has so frequently kept the hands of the Eastern Roumelian authorities full of work.

The nature of the subject as above, where the marauders seem to have made a slight exception in favour of non-Bulgarians by race, must be my excuse in the endeavour to secure clearness in defining difference of race on a frontier-line, for employing the terms Bulgarians, Turks, &c., instead of simply Christians and Mussulmans.

I have not been able before to-day to give the correct details, as set forth by the report of the Natchalnik of Pravadi, although since ten days several conflicting rumours as to the facts have been prevalent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 200.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 228. Confidential.)

Sophia, December 2, 1879.

My Lord,

MY Austrian colleague, Count Khevenhüller, informed me yesterday that Colonel Schepelew, a Russian who had remained here, ostensibly for the purpose of winding-up the affairs of the Russian Provisional Government, had called upon him, and stated his intention of proceeding shortly to St. Petersburgh.

On Count Khevenhüller's remarking that he supposed that this journey was not merely for pleasure, he replied that it was not, and that he was sent by the Prince to sound the Emperor as to the possibility of making some change in the Constitution, of which the necessity becomes every day more apparent, and as to how far he would be justified in appealing to force, in the event of refusal on the part of the people to pay the taxes, of which there has already been some signs in certain districts.

Count Khevenhüller told me in confidence that the Prince had spoken to him somewhat bitterly of the way in which he had been induced to give his consent to the Constitution, the work of Prince Dondoukoff, without even being allowed to examine it. It seems that, both at Berlin and Vienna, he had been advised only to accept it under protest, and with the reservation of being entitled to introduce such changes as might prove necessary; but that he was told by the Emperor that Prince Dondoukoff had already provided for this eventuality by the insertion of an Article in the Constitution which would suffice in case of any modification becoming subsequently necessary. This provision is the second paragraph of the 141st Article of the Constitution, by which a change may be made by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Grand National Assembly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 201.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 392.)

Philippopolis, December 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of petitions from Turkish refugees who have returned to districts in the vicinity of Philippopoli, and who complain that their property is being destroyed by Bulgarian villagers, their lands tilled by usurpers, and their share of last year's crops withheld from their famishing families.

In one case, a large Turkish proprietor in the district of Carlovo complains that he is not able to recover any of his rents, and is consequently compelled to "walk about the streets without a farthing in his pocket."

The inclosed extracts from the "Star of Eastern Roumelia" show that in the department of Haskeui the refugees are treated with the same hardship and injustice, while in one case a Mussulman is stated to have succumbed from the effect of blows inflicted by some Bulgarian villagers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Petition from Turks of Ouzoun-Cara.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Ouzoun-Cara, district de Coyonn-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Nos récoltes de l'année passée ont été pris par les Bulgares du village de Virljova-Youn, ainsi que par les Bulgares de notre village. Nous nous sommes rendus à notre village pour réclamer la moitié des récoltes qui nous sont dues. Sur notre réclamation juste on a donné pour tous les villageois Musulmans seulement 100 kilog. de blés, et ils nous ont refusé de nous payer la location de nos champs qu'ils ont ensemencés

l'année dernière. Pour cette année tous nos champs sont cultivés par les villageois Bulgares de notre village, et on ne nous laisse pas cultiver nous-mêmes nos champs. Quoique nous ayons réclamés les récoltes qui nous sont dues, il nous ont répondu par des insultes que nous n'aurons rien.

Nous nous trouvons donc sans pain et sans abri dans les rues; plusieurs de nous meurent de faim. Nous prions donc instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire inviter les susdits villageois, et nous faire restituer selon notre droit les récoltes qui nous sont dues.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants du village Ouzoun-Cara,
(Signé) HASSAN OGLOU NOURI.
ALI OGLOU MEHMED.
KARA OGLOU RASSIM.

Le 14 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

Petition from Turks of Ali-Fekher.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Ali-Fekher, district de Kara-dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

L'année passée, au moment où les Russes ont pris possession de notre village, nous avons émigré, en confiant aux ouvriers qui travaillaient dans nos champs et prairies, nos trois prairies, ainsi que les bestiaux de nos pauvres villageois, avec les maisons qui nous appartenaient. Cependant, le Chef Cantonnier du village de Baltadji vient un jour réclamer de nos ouvriers une paire de bestiaux. Nos ouvriers répondent: —"Quel droit avez-vous de réclamer des bestiaux qui ne vous appartiennent pas?" Sur cela le susdit Chef Cantonnier s'en va, et après s'être mis d'accord avec quelques autres Bulgares, il retourne avec eux à notre village, et ils prennent tous nos bestiaux et démolissent nos maisons, en prenant les planches pour se construire des nouvelles maisons à côté du village de Baltadji-keui. Les champs que nous avons laissé de l'année passée, tous les produits étaient ramassés par les villageois Bulgares de Baltadja-Kariyessi, et ils ont pris les récoltes. Sur cela, et selon notre droit, nous avons réclamé la moitié de nos récoltes de l'année passée. En nous rendant à notre village pour réclamer les récoltes qui nous sont dues, ils nous ont proposé de donner une quantité très-insignifiante à une personne qui avait droit à 100 kilés, et cela avec grande difficulté. Les champs qui nous appartenaient ont été cultivés sans notre autorisation par les villageois Bulgares de Baltadji-keui, quoique nous ayons dit à ces villageois que c'était notre droit de cultiver nos champs, et personne ne nous écoutait; et en même temps ils ont pris possession de toutes nos forêts, et ils ne nous ont pas même laissé du bois pour construire une petite baraque.

Nous nous trouvons donc ici actuellement, avec nos malheureuses familles, sans pain et sans abri, quoique nous voulons rentrer dans nos villages; mais, en pensant que nous n'avons ni maisons ni récoltes, et nous nous trouvons au désespoir en cas même nous restons à Philippopoli on ne nous donne pas de rations. Nous ignorons donc quelle mesure prendre pour sauvegarder nos intérêts.

Nous vous prions, M. le Consul-Général, de faire inviter les villageois Bulgares de Baltadji-keui pour leur faire construire nos maisons qu'ils ont détruits, et nous donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues, et faire restituer, selon la loi, nos forêts dont ils ont pris possession.

En attendant impatiemment votre juste décision, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants du village de Ali-Fekher,
(Signé) SALIH.
ISMAIL.

Le 12 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 201.

Petition from Turks of Hadji-Bahaderle.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Hadji Badhaderle, district de Counouz, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Il y a déjà quelques jours que, suivant les ordres de l'autorité, nous étions envoyés par la Commission des réfugiés à notre village. A notre arrivée au village nous avons trouvé que toutes nos récoltes, ainsi que nos champs, avaient été pris par les villageois Bulgares; quoique nous ayons réclamé la moitié des récoltes qui nous sont dues, ils nous les ont refusé nettement. Sur cela nous avons adressé une demande à l'autorité de Stanimaka pour réclamer notre dû, et l'autorité nous a donné un ordre pour les villageois Bulgares de notre village pour nous restituer nos récoltes; cependant nos villageois Bulgares n'ont pas écouté cet ordre, et nous ont répondu que nos récoltes étaient pillés, et ne nous ont donné ni nos récoltes de l'année passée ni le loyer de nos champs.

Nous nous trouvons donc avec nos enfants mourant de faim, et plusieurs de nous meurent du manque de nourriture. Ici on ne nous donne pas de rations; à notre village on ne nous fourni pas les récoltes qui nous sont dues; les Bulgares de notre village cultivent nos champs, et ne nous les laissent pas cultiver nous-mêmes, quoique nous leur ayons dit que nous devons cultiver une partie de nos champs nous-mêmes.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires pour nous faire donner nos récoltes de l'année passée, ainsi que la location de nos champs, car nous sommes sans resources, et si cela continue ainsi nous mourrons tous de faim.

En attendant impatiemment les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants du village de Hadji-Bahaderle,
(Signé) SELIM OGLOU ISMAÏL.
CHABAN OGLOU SULEYMAN.
SAYID OGLOU YOUSSOUF.

Le 16 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 4 in No. 201.

Petition from Turk of Carlovo.

(Traduction.)

JE soussigné, un des Notables Musulmans du district de Carlovo, relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence, ci-joint, une liste s'élevant à 2,978 deunums de terrain, des champs, jardins, dans le district de Carlovo, des magasins, maisons, et propriétés.

Pour prendre possession de tout ce que je possède, je me suis rendu à Carlovo. Malgré que j'ai adressé plusieurs pétitions à l'autorité de Carlovo, cependant, aucune suite n'a été donnée à mes réclamations pour les locations de mes sept magasins; ils m'ont donnée une somme insignifiante. Possédant tant de terrains, maisons, et autres, je ne puis recevoir absolument rien de mes revenus, et je suis obligé de flâner dans les rues sans le sou.

Je prie humblement votre Excellence de vouloir bien examiner mon affaire, et me faire avoir justice.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, Excellence, &c.

(Signé) MEHMED ALI AGHA.

Le 14 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Liste des Propriétés de Mehmed Ali Agha, Notable Musulman du District de Carlovo.

10 Moulins.	35 Prairies.
75 Arbres de noix.	142 Champs.
3 Jardins de Fruits.	2 Fermes (total 2,978 deunums).
4 Jardins de Légumes.	1 Maison.
13 Forêts.	1 Bazar.
4 Vignes.	10 Magasins.
8 Champs de Roses.	1 Han.

Inclosure 5 in No. 201.

Petition from Turks of Yacoub-Bey.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants émigrés du village de Yacoub-Bey, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les habitants Bulgares de notre village ont détruits nos maisons complétement. En prenant les planches ils ont construits des nouvelles maisons pour eux. Ils ont aussi détruits nos forêts jusqu'au point qu'il ne nous reste rien dans nos forêts, et ils continuent toujours d'agir ainsi.

Il y a déjà un mois que nous avons adressé une demande à l'autorité de Carlovo en demandant justice; l'autorité a envoyé de suite les ordres nécessaires aux Bulgares pour nous laisser tranquille, et ne pas détruire nos maisons et nos forêts.

Sur cette ordre, les Bulgares ont doublé leur ardeur en démolissant les quelques baraques qui nous restaient, et en coupant tous les arbres dans nos forêts.

Veuillez, Excellence, au nom de l'humanité, inviter ces villageois, et leur faire subir les conséquences de leur culpabilité, et qu'on nous laisse tranquille pour pouvoir vivre dans notre village, en nous faisant payer les dommages et une indemnité pour nos maisons et nos forêts.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants du village de Yacoub-Bey,

(Signé) TAHIR OGLOU MAHMOUD AGHA.
HASSAN AGHA.

Le 17 Novembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 6 in No. 201.

Extract from "Star of Eastern Roumelia" of December 1, 1879.

Requête adressée à Son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale par les 137 Habitants de Haskeuï, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Novembre, 1879.

QUOIQUE tous les émigrés Musulmans soient déjà rentrés dans leurs foyers respectifs, nous avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Altesse que l'autorité locale ne leur donne, ni les récoltes qui leur ont été laissées au temps des Russes, ni les récoltes de l'année précédente, ainsi que les terrains et les revenus à eux appartenant; par suite des faits ci hauts énoncés ces malheureux se trouvent sans travail et sans moyen de subsistance.

Note de la Rédaction.—Nous espérons que l'autorité prendra les mésures nécessaires pour soulager ces malheureux, qui se trouvent actuellement dans le plus complet dénuement.

A MM. les Consuls résidant à Philippopoli, prière au nom de l'humanité!

Dans le vilayet de la Roumélie Orientale il se trouve aujourd'hui à peu près 100,000 émigrés Musulmans qui sont dans les rues sur la neige presque toute nue et sans aucun asile, et par le froid qu'il fait actuellement et dépourvu de tout secours ils en meurent journellement. Il prient humblement ceux qui habitent dans des maisons bien chauffées de venir à leur secours.

Comme les hommes sont des frères, ils doivent toujours s'entr'aider; mais par malheur nos frères n'entendent pas notre voix, et voyant notre misère et notre position bien pitoyable, leur cœur ne s'ouvrira-t-il pas encore pour nous venir en aide et protection. Ayez pitié de nous et veuillez venir à nous; car nous n'avons plus d'autres resources pour vivre que votre charité et votre générosité.

Nous vous prions en mettant toute notre confiance en votre générosité.

Le nommé Ahmed Tchavouch résidant à Haskeuï, se rendit le 29 Octobre à Kayädjik pour recevoir les indemnités qui lui sont dues pour ses terrains sis dans ce village. A peine arrivé a Kayadjik il a été assommé par les Bulgares de ce village; par l'effet des coups si abondamment reçus et ayant sa figure gonflée et tout son corps blessé, il s'est évanoui, et dans cet état son frère l'a transporté à Haskeuï dans un araba; mais dans la nuit même ses blessures ont pris telle gravité que le pauvre

malade a rendu le dernier soupir. Je porte ce fait à votre connaissance en vous priant de le déclarer à qui de droit et lui donner la publicité dans votre journal.

Mr. Michell, Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique, accompagné de Mme. Michell, ont visité il y a quelques jours les nombreux réfugiés Musulmans arrivés dernièrement dans notre ville.

Ces malheureux sont plongés dans la plus affreuse misère. Ils sont complétement dépourvus de tout moyens d'existence. Nous aimons à croire que M. le Consul-Général voudra bien prendre l'initiative d'une souscription publique en faveur de ces infortunés.

Une députation composée d'une trentaine de ces malheureux sont venus à la Direction de notre journal, nous prier d'adresser des remercîments publics à M. le Consul-Général Britannique pour la sympathie qu'il n'a cessé de leur témoigner.

No. 202.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 395.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 5, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 341 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to report that part of the district of Kyrdjali in this province is still in a disturbed condition.

Some days ago a band of 500 to 600 Turks attacked the konak in the village of Kyrdjali and seized the Government chest, which contained a sum of 22,000 piastres.

The local Mussulman gendarmes were likewise seized and carried away by the insurgents, who continue to act under a provisional Government.

The Governor-General still hopes to reduce the district to submission by peaceful means, through the intervention of Raouf Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 203.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 397.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that two more Mussulmans have been elected members of the Provincial Assembly, viz.:—Redjeb Effendi for the undisturbed portion of Kyrdjali, and Ismaïl Effendi for the town and district of Stanimaka.

The election of a Greek Deputy for the latter district having been annulled on the ground, principally, of the electoral district having been improperly constituted under te Decree of the Governor-General, the Greek population, although in a great majority, refused to take part in a new election, and thus left the field open for the Turkish candidate.

The number of Turks who have obtained seats in the Assembly is now six, three having been elected and three nominated by the Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 204.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 399.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, translations of seven petitions presented to the Governor-General and myself, representing mostly the extreme indigence of the petitioners, and their desire to obtain the share of crops due to them by Bulgarian villagers.

Two of the petitioners stated to me, in addition, that the Bulgarian work of destruction had only ceased about a month ago in their village, when nothing more had been left to destroy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 204.

Pétition from Turks of Cara-Hissarli.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Cara-Hissarli, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 63 maisons, composées de 243 personnes ; nous sommes privées tous des récoltes ; quoique nous ayons des champs et voulons les cultiver, nous n'avons ni bœufs ni le nécessaire pour les ensemencer pour cet hiver ; nos villageois se trouvent sans nourriture ; nous nous trouvons donc mourant de faim avec nos malheureuses familles, car l'autorité aussi ne nous donne pas de rations.

Nous prions donc respectueusement votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous fournir de bœufs et instruments aratoires pour pouvoir cultiver nos champs et produire de récoltes ; en même temps, veuillez nous donner des récoltes pour pouvoir vivre durant cet hiver, car si on ne nous donne pas de récoltes pour pouvoir vivre cet hiver, nous mourrons tous de faim. En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

Le Représentant des villageois,
(Signé) HALIL OGLOU MOUSTAPHA.

Le 21 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

N.B.—Le pétitionnaire a déclaré verbalement que les villageois Bulgares continuent de détruire leurs maisons ; il y a un mois seulement qu'ils ont cessé, car il n'y a plus rien à détruire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 204.

Petition from Turks of Kabranlar.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Kabranlar, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 150 maisons, composées de 500 personnes Musulmanes. Nous habitons le village de Kabranlar. Quoique nous avons des champs, nous ne pouvons pas les cultiver, à cause du manque de bœufs et des instruments aratoires nécessaires ; nous nous trouvons donc sans pain et sans resources, mourant de faim, car l'autorité ne nous donne pas de rations et plusieurs de nous meurent de faim par le manque de nourriture.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous fournir les moyens nécessaires pour pouvoir vivre durant cet hiver ; en cas contraire nous mourrons tous de faim, vu manque de nourriture. En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants des villageois Kabranlar,
(Signé) MEHMED OGLOU MOUSTAFA.

Le 21 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

N.B.—Le pétitionnaire a déclaré verbalement que les villageois Bulgares continuaient de détruire les maisons Musulmanes, et il y a déjà un mois seulement qu'ils ont cessé, vu qu'il n'y a plus rien à détruire.

Inclosure 3 in No. 204.

Petition from Turk of Ahe-Kariyéler.

(Traduction.)

JE soussigné, habitant du village de Ahe-Kariyéler, district de Caradja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur de faire part à votre Excellence de ce qui suit :—

Les récoltes de mon champ de 300 deunums que j'avais cultivé ont été prises par les villageois Bulgares du village de Rahmanle.

L'année passée mon frère Osman s'est présenté en mon nom pour réclamer nos

récoltes, et selon le cahier on trouva 1,200 kilés de blés, et selon notre droit mon frère en a réclamé la moitié, soit 600 kilés ; selon les ordres du Chef Cantonnier les blés ont été mis au magasin de l'autorité, et après grande difficulté on a remis à mon frère 100 kilés, le reste les Bulgares l'ont distribué entre eux, ainsi que les récoltes que j'avais cultivé au village de Keukdjéle d'environ 180 deunums de terrain ainsi que mes pâturages.

Les villageois Bulgares de Youn-keuy et Manol ont fait la distribution entre eux.

Selon mon droit, quoique j'aie réclamé la moitié des produits de mes champs, on nous a répondu qu'on l'a remise à l'autorité. Cependant ils n'ont rien donné à personne et mes récoltes se trouvent entre les mains des villageois Bulgares ; aussi ils refusent de me donner le loyer de mes champs qu'ils ont cultivés cette année.

Je prie donc instamment, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien inviter les susdits villageois et me faire restituer mes récoltes, car je me trouve dans une critique position.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) HUSSEIN AGHA.

Le 20 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 4 in No. 204.

Petition from Turks of Carlovo.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du district de Carlovo, depuis que nous sommes rentrés dans nos villages nous étions complétement dépourvu de norriture, de bœufs, et de moyens de chauffage. Nous ne trouvons aucun moyen pour pouvoir gagner notre pain quotidien, et nous sommes sans nourriture et sans habits mourant de faim.

Nous vous prions respectueusement, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien nous procurer quelques rations pour ne pas mourir de faim et de nous fournir des bœufs et des instruments aratoires pour pouvoir travailler et gagner notre vie.

Quoique nous ayons adressé à ce sujet une pétition à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, nous espérons que par votre entremise l'affaire sera finie et nous serons satisfait de notre demande.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

(Suivent 51 cachets des habitants Musulmans du district de Carlovo.)

Le 18 *Novembre*, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 5 in No. 204.

Petition from Turks of Vodiné-Mussélim.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Vodiné-Mussélim, après la dernière guerre, les maisons que nous avions laissées dans notre village ont été détruites par les villageois Bulgares de Vodiné et de Panaïa ; ces villageois, après avoir détruit nos maisons et nos biens, ont démoli complétement les murs de nos jardins, et ils ont transférés le matériel à leur maison.

Nous espérons, M. le Consul-Général, que ces villageois subiront les conséquences de la manière dont ils se sont comportés envers nous, et que vous prendrez les mesures nécessaires pour inviter ces villageois au devant de l'Autorité Centrale et nous faire restituer les récoltes qui nous sont dues de l'année passée, ainsi que de l'année courante, et de faire construire nos maisons et nous faire restituer celles qui n'ont pas été détruites, en nous faisant aussi restituer nos champs, pour pouvoir les cultiver nous-mêmes.

En attendant une réponse satisfaisante, veuillez, &c.

Les villageois de Vodiné-Mussélim,
(Signé) Les Villageois.

Le 22 *Novembre*. 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 6 in No. 204.

Petition from Turks of Déré-Kayassi.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Déré-Kayassi, district de Konouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes soixante-dix familles Musulmanes rentrées dans notre village. Nous demeurons dans des baraques; selon notre droit nous devrions toucher la moitié de nos récoltes de l'année passée. Cependant dans notre voisinage les Bulgares des villages de Kos-Bounar, Tatar-keui, et Derbendini-Mahalessi ont enlevé ces récoltes et refusent de nous les restituer. Quoique nous ayons présenté un compte indiquant la quantité de nos récoltes de l'année précédente et de l'année courante, on refuse même de nous payer l'indemnité pour la location de nos champs; nous avons aussi à recevoir le produit de nos champs de Déré-Kayassi, du district de Haskeui, qui d'après notre droit, s'élève à 101½ kilés de blé, que nous avions l'ordre de l'autorité de réclamer à Hadji Elles Mahalessi. Nous avons dépensé de 300 à 600 piastres pour obtenir un ordre des autorités d'ici et celui de Haskeui, au Gouverneur de Hadji-Ellés; quoique nous ayons apporté cet ordre au Gouverneur de Hadji-Ellés ce dernier ne lui a donné aucune suite, et nous sommes privés de nourriture et nous nous trouvons dans une misère pitoyable, vu qu'on ne nous donne pas même nos récoltes de l'année passée. Nous voulions cultiver nos champs; mais les villageois Bulgares de Kos-Bounar, Tatar-keui, et Derbendini-Mahalessi occupent nos champs et ne nous laissent pas les cultiver; que deviendrons nous donc, M. le Consul-Général, dans cette position critique? Bien que nous ayons adressé plusieurs demandes à l'Autorité Centrale aucune suite n'a été donnée à nos demandes. Les villageois Bulgares de Déré-Kayassi, nous répondent que notre affaire regarde à l'autorité de Hadji-Ellés et nous chassent. Nous n'avons personne pour voir notre affaire. Nous vous prions donc, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien examiner notre affaire et nous rendre la justice.

En attendant impatiemment vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants des villageois de Déré-Kayassi,
(Signé) MEHMED ALI OGLOU HALIL.
HALIL OGLOU ALI.

Le 21 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 7 in No. 204.

Petition from Turks of Keukdjéler.

(Traduction.)

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Keukdjéler, district de Konouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes quarante-sept familles Musulmanes. Il y a un mois nous avons adressé à l'autorité une demande pour 1,000 kilés de grains pour pouvoir ensemencer nos champs déjà cultivés, l'autorité nous a répondu que notre demande serait prise en considération après quelques jours.

Nous sommes arrivés à Philippopoli pour réclamer de l'autorité les grains qu'ils nous ont promis. On nous répond que c'est l'autorité de Hadji-Ellés qui doit nous fournir les 100 kilés de grains; cependant le Gouverneur de Hadji-Ellés nous a répondu que sans un ordre de l'Autorité Centrale de Philippopoli il ne pouvait nous fournir les grains demandés. Si l'autorité ne nous fournit pas les grains demandés, à l'avenir nous souffrirons horriblement. Nous vous prions donc, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos et obtenir de l'Autorité Centrale un ordre du Gouverneur de Hadji-Ellés pour nous donner les 1,000 kilés de grains.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le Représentant des villageois Musulmans de Keukdjéler,
(Signé) MAHMOUD SAÏD.

Le 22 *Novembre*, 1879 (v. s.).

No. 205.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 400.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 6, 1879.

THE proceedings of the Provincial Assembly have not as yet offered any materials of sufficient interest or importance for a special Report.

The attention of the Deputies continues to be engrossed in a study of the Budget in Committee, and the only act of legislation so far completed is that which relates to the Rules of the Assembly.

The several Directors are meanwhile the objects of frequent interpellations on questions of minor importance, provoked by a laudable spirit of inquiry into the acts of the Administration.

Much time has been devoted to the discussion of M. Schmidt's project for the issue of Inland Revenue stamps, in lieu of money-tokens—a project which has been almost unanimously rejected: the two Deputies who alone supported it being, in the one case, a subordinate of M. Schmidt's in the Finance Department, and, in the other, to the astonishment of the Assembly itself, M. Kessiakoff, the Deputy who first called attention to the danger and irregularity of the proposed measure.

At a recent sitting, the Greek Deputy for Achiolo directed the attention of the Secretary-General to the unsatisfactory condition of the Provincial Tribunals, in a speech of which I have the honour to inclose a French translation.

The Bulgarian Radical organ had previously devoted a leading article to the same subject, and from an almost similar point of view. These criticisms have not as yet elicited any reply on the part of the Administration.

A debate arose a few days ago on the subject of the great distress that exists among the refugees, and although the existence of that distress was generally acknowledged and deplored, the Assembly confined its present action to the expression of a desire that the Porte should cease the further despatch of refugees into this province. In addition, however, to the relief for which provision has been made in the Budget, M. Schmidt is preparing, and to some extent negotiating, a scheme for the raising of a loan, on a considerable scale, for the establishment of an Agricultural Bank.

I have much pleasure in adding that the debates at the Assembly are conducted with becoming gravity and decorum, and with the exhibition of much good sense, under the guidance of its President, M. Gueshoff, the benefit of whose excellent capacities is now coveted by the Bulgarian Assembly of Sophia. I learn, however, that M. Gueshoff does not intend to accept the post that has been offered to him in the new Bulgarian Ministry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 206.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 1063.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas respecting the condition of Mussulman refugees returning to Bulgaria from Constantinople and Sinope, and their treatment by the authorities at Bourgas.

I have brought this matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and urged upon it the inhumanity of sending these unfortunate people, without proper arrangement being made made for their subsistence, to Bourgas and elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No 206.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, November* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the British steamer "Clotilde" arrived here on the 21st instant from Constantinople with about 700 Mussulman refugees belonging to the district.

As orders had been received a few hours previously from Philippopoli that no refugees should be accepted but such as possessed means of subsistence for two months, the authorities at first decided to refuse the greater majority permission to land.

However, on my representing the serious pecuniary injury which would ensue to the "Clotilde" (she having a contract to execute at Kustendje), that her captain was entirely ignorant of any such prohibition, and that the refugees were embarked by the Turkish Government, a *mezzo termine* was at last adopted, and it was announced that such of the refugees as were not in want of support from the authorities would be allowed to land.

Rather than remain on board or return to Constantinople, all of the passengers gave the required assurances, but I am assured that nine-tenths of them are in the greatest misery, without money to purchase three days' food. The local authorities have no fund which they can draw for their support, and will be obliged to refuse them rations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, November* 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 24th instant 800 returning Mussulman refugees were landed here by the Turkish corvette "Ismail," which had brought them from Sinope. Small-pox had broken out among them.

With regard to the refugees by the "Clotilde" (860 in number) they are suffering terribly from hunger. At Constantinople they were told that at Bourgas two months' provisions would be given, whilst the authorities here have orders to refuse them any relief.

Unless, however, some sort of relief be speedily afforded them, it is probable that the greater number will die of starvation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 207.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1066.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a note, which I have received from the Agent of the Principality of Bulgaria at Constantinople, requesting that instructions may be given to the captains of English vessels not to give passages to Turkish refugees bound for Bulgaria unless such refugees be duly provided with an authorization from the Bulgarian Agency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I likewise inclose a copy of a despatch on the subject from Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, to whom I had sent a copy of Zankoff's letter.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 207.

M. Zankoff to Sir A. H. Layard.

Agence de la Principauté de Bulgarie,
M. l'Ambassadeur, *le* 28 *Novembre*, 1879.

D'APRÈS ce qui a été convenu entre le Gouvernement Bulgare et le Gouvernement Ottoman, le rapatriement des réfugiés Musulmans en Bulgarie par groupe ne pourra se faire que sur avis préalable et basé sur un document délivré au groupe respectif par l'Agence de la Principauté à Constantinople. Les autorités dans les parts Bulgares ont reçu à ce sujet des ordres conformes.

Dans un but d'humanité, pour épargner aux réfugiés qui ne se seraient pas munis du document voulu l'inconvenient de se voir refuser l'accès des ports Bulgares, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire donner des ordres aux Compagnies des bateaux de transport, ainsi qu'aux capitaines des bateaux privés portant pavillon de la Grande Bretagne, et desservant les échelles Ottomanes et Bulgares, de ne prendre à bord pour destination de Bulgarie que des réfugiés Musulmans en possession du papier mentionné.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANKOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 207.

Mr. Fawcett to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, December* 5, 1879;

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 30th ultimo, inclosing copy of a note from the Agent of the Principality of Bulgaria, in which that gentleman asks that captains of English vessels be instructed not to give passages to Turkish refugees bound for Bulgaria unless they are provided with an authorization from the Bulgarian Agency. In answer, I have the honour to state that I do not see by what authority I can prevent captains of vessels from taking on board such persons as they may think fit, unless, of course, in the case of criminals, deserters, &c.

Such a demand coming from the Porte, as it would regard its own subjects, would be another matter.

Your Excellency will observe that the Agent for Bulgaria does not give your Excellency a copy of the said Convention, nor does it appear that the Porte has made your Excellency any such request.

Should the Porte take such a step, and your Excellency, as representing Her Majesty's Government, were to instruct me to stop such persons, I think I might be justified in doing so, but not at the request of a Government other than that to which these persons belong.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT.

No. 208.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1067.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 5, 1879.

I HAVE again asked the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the Porte intends to take any notice of the manner in which Aleko Pasha has dealt with the question of the Gymnastic Societies, which, according to Mr. Consul-General Michell, instead of abolishing, as he pretends, the Governor-General has only endeavoured to legalize under another name, that of "a reserve," and consequently rendered far more dangerous to the future peace of the province, and to the many violations of the Treaty of Berlin and of the Organic Statute which, it is alleged, have been committed by his Excellency. I further drew Sawas Pasha's attention to the statement made by Aleko Pasha's supporters, and countenanced, it would apppear, by himself, that the Sultan conferred upon him, during his recent visit to Constantinople, the "Grand Cordon" of the Order of the "Osmanie," as a mark of His Majesty's approval of his conduct as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia. This statement, I said, had produced a very unfavourable impression everywhere,

and especially upon the unfortunate Mussulman population of the province, still subjected to such cruel and unjust treatment from the Bulgarians. Even in Roumania, I had been informed, the report that this high distinction had been given to Aleko Pasha was looked upon as a proof that the policy of Russia, as regards Eastern Roumelia, was approved of, and connived at, by the Porte, and that the Sultan was relinquishing that authority in the province which had been secured to him by the Treaty of Berlin.

Sawas Pasha replied that the Porte had hitherto invariably protested against all such illegal proceedings of Aleko Pasha, whether in violation of the Treaty of Berlin or of the Organic Statute, as had been brought to its knowledge, and that its protests in the matter had all been communicated to the Signatory Powers. His Excellency added that the Porte, while referring to previous protests, would not overlook the importance of also strongly protesting against the manner in which the Governor-General had dealt with the question of Gymnastic Societies. The Porte, his Excellency went on to say, must likewise bear in mind the necessity of occupying the Balkans immediately after the settlement of the Greek question. Without carrying out this measure, in pursuance of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, there would be little security for the remaining possessions of His Majesty the Sultan in Europe. His Excellency gave me the most categorical assurance, which has been confirmed to me by the Prime Minister, that the Sultan did not confer the Order of the Osmanie on Aleko Pasha, and that His Majesty had no intention of doing so. Aleko Pasha has evidently, they think, been putting about the report that he had received it, or that it had been promised to him, in order to make the non-Bulgarian populations of Eastern Roumelia believe that their treatment of the Bulgarians was approved by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 209.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 20.*)

(No. 1070.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1879.*

MR. BLUNT, in his despatch to me of the 22nd August last (copy transmitted to your Lordship), forwarded to me copy of a petition from the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the town of Kupruli to the Vali of Salonica, complaining of the misconduct of their Kaïmakam, or Governor.

I am now informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, on my representations, the Kaïmakam was dismissed, and that the people of Kupruli have addressed a "Mazbata" to the Porte expressing their satisfaction with his successor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 210.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 20.*)

(No. 1077.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 7, 1879.*

M. RADOWITZ, the Montenegrin Minister, called yesterday upon the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform his Excellency that he had been directed to state to the Porte, by the Prince of Montenegro, that, as a body of Albanians had made a wanton and treacherous attack upon some Montenegrin troops, killing a considerable number of them, although ultimately repulsed, His Highness demanded that Gussinjé should be delivered over to him by the 12th instant. In the event of the district not having been surrendered to Montenegro by that date, the Prince would be compelled, M. Radowitz said, to send his troops to take forcible possession of it; and, in that case, as His Highness considered the slaughter of his troops by the Albanians in the light of a massacre, he should, by way of retaliation, order a general slaughter of the Mussulman population of Gussinjé.

Sawas Pasha informs me that he was astonished to hear such language coming from a Foreign Minister accredited to the Porte. Not wishing to answer it in the only terms which such a communication deserved, he had pretended not to catch the full meaning of M. Radowitz's words, recommending to him patience and moderation until the real facts of the incident had been fully investigated.

The Porte still maintains that a short time ago, as then stated by it in a communication to the foreign Powers, Montenegrin troops did, without provocation, kill thirty Mussulmans of Gussinjé and destroy two villages; and it believes that the recent attack of the Albanians, which the Prince of Montenegro has denounced, may have been an act of revenge on their part for the previous attack of the Montenegrins.

I have not seen M. Radowitz since he has received his instructions on this subject, but I understand from some of my colleagues that he has held the same language to them as to Sawas Pasha, namely, that should the Prince of Montenegro be compelled to occupy Gussinjé by force, he will slaughter the Mussulman inhabitants in cold blood.

I availed myself of the opportunity to bring to his Excellency's notice the suggestion contained in Captain Sale's despatch No. 27 of the 24th ultimo, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 1423 of the 27th ultimo, that the Porte should at once occupy Gussinjé-Plava with a sufficient force, and then signify its readiness to hand over that district in due form to Montenegro, on condition of the simultaneous surrender of Kucka Kraina by the Montenegrins to the Turkish authorities. I informed his Excellency that I was instructed by your Lordship to urge strongly upon him the expediency of taking this course, unless he should think it better, in the first place, to open a regular negotiation with the Montenegrin Government for the exchange of the two districts in question.

Sawas Pasha replied that the Porte had at first attached great importance to Kucka Kraina as a strategical position completely commanding Podgoritza, whilst the Montenegrins, on the other hand, attached no less importance to that town and district in view of transferring to it a large Montenegrin population, and of other objects. The Porte thus hoped to obtain certain advantages from Montenegro by waiving its rights to the possession of Kucka Kraina. It now appeared, however, that Montenegro was no longer in the same disposition as regards Podgoritza, notwithstanding which the Porte would be willing to adopt your Lordship's suggestion, inasmuch as it falls in with the views it has hitherto entertained as to retaining possession of Gussinjé until certain disputed points connected with the new frontier between Turkey and Montenegro are settled.

His Excellency has informed me that Moukhtar Pasha, by the last advices, was still at Prisrend, endeavouring, by communications with the principal Albanian Chiefs of Jacova and Ipek, to effect the surrender of Gussinjé without bloodshed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 20.*)

(No. 1078.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 8, 1879.*

WITH reference to Mr. Ashburnham's despatch to your Lordship No. 226 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has given me the most categorical assurances that no agreement whatever has been come to between the Porte and the Bulgarian Government prohibiting the return of Mussulman refugees to the Principality, or making it depend upon the conditions specified by the Bulgarian Minister.

I confess that it appears to me that, in preventing the return of these unfortunate people to their homes, and leaving them to perish on the frontier, the Bulgarian Government is not acting consistently either with the dictates of humanity or with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the tone of the telegram from the Turkish Prime Minister, of which the Prince seems to complain, is not altogether without justification. Sawas Pasha spoke to me with great bitterness on the subject of the conduct of the Bulgarian authorities, and asked how it was possible for the Porte to furnish passports to all the unfortunate persons who were endeavouring to return to their native country, or, at a short notice, to give the number and places of residence of those who, seeking their own homes and property, are apparently styled by M. Balabanow "intruding immigrants."

The accounts that are received from the Principality, and the number of unfortunate Mussulman families who, deprived by the Bulgarians of all they possessed, are constantly arriving at Constantinople and elsewhere by the steamers from the Danube, furnish con-

clusive evidence of the unjust and cruel treatment to which the Mahommedan population and the refugees are exposed in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1084. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 8, 1879.

MR. ASHBURNHAM mentions, in his despatch to your Lordship No. 227 of the 2nd instant, that M. Zancoff, the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, had been offered a place in the new Bulgarian Ministry which M. Caraveloff was endeavouring to form. M. Zancoff, when calling upon me two days ago, informed me that he had been offered the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Presidency of the Council, and that he had accepted the offer. My Austrian colleague tells me that M. Zancoff made the same communication to him, but added that, although he was willing for the time to act as a member of the Bulgarian Government, his object was to obtain a permanent post of Inspector-General of the Principality, which would bring him into constant and intimate contact and communication with the people, whose character he desired to form, and whom he wished to educate for the reforms that it would be necessary to introduce into Bulgaria. Count Zichy remarked to M. Zancoff that his object appeared to be to set up an authority antagonistic to that of the Prince, and to prepare the Bulgarians for a Republic, of which he (M. Zancoff) was to be the President; and such, my colleague is convinced, is M. Zancoff's real intention.

I understand that M. Zancoff's character is far from being such as would be desirable for a patriot and a reformer who is to undertake the education of the Bulgarian people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1088.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Adrianople, Rustchuk, Angora, Prevesa, and Janina, on matters of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 213.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, December* 2, 1879.

WITH regard to the innumerable claims brought by Mussulmans against Christians for the recovery of property appropriated by the latter during the flight of the Turkish population in the beginning of 1878, or left to them in trust by the Mussulman fugitives, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that a Mixed Commission was formed on the 22nd ultimo by Réouf Pasha to inquire into such cases, and to endeavour, by acting as an intermediary between the litigants, to effect an amicable settlement of the said claims.

The Commission consists of two Mussulmans, one Bulgarian, and one Greek member, and of two foreign members; and it is presided over by Wassa Effendi, the "Musteshar" of this province, who, as your Excellency is no doubt aware, is a Christian Albanian. The foreign members of the Commission are Mr. Black (English), Director of the Adrianople branch of the Ottoman Bank, and M. Richard, a French merchant established in business here.

On the suggestion of the Commission, the district authorities of the Province of Adrianople, as well as the authorities of every province of the Empire to which Mussulman refugees from these parts have been transferred, have been informed by telegraph that all claims for restitution of property lost by those refugees at the time of their flight must be presented within a period of twenty-five days. Any such claims presented after the expiration of this term will be rejected.

The Commission has, up to the present, only succeeded in settling a very small number of the claims that have been submitted to it, owing to the intricacy and complexity of the cases, and the frequent necessity of summoning witnesses or otherwise obtaining evidence from distant parts of the province.

As the Government is much too poor to think of itself indemnifying (as would probably have been the case in other European countries similarly situated) the sufferers by the late war, the course which Réouf Pasha has adopted in appointing this Commission is, no doubt, the wisest one open to his Excellency under the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 213.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, December* 5, 1879.

WASSA EFENDI, Musteshar of the Adrianople Vilayet, called upon me this afternoon, and informed me that he will leave to-morrow morning for Constantinople, for the purpose of conferring with the Minister of the Interior on the subject of the claims referred to in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

The question of these claims, as your Excellency will easily understand, is one of the most important, and also one of the most difficult to deal with, of all those which at present tax the attention and the energies of Réouf Pasha.

His Excellency was at first of opinion that no claims for the recovery of property lost during the late war and subsequent foreign occupation, should be entertained; arguing that a contrary course would be in contradiction with the spirit of the general amnesty issued by the Sultan. But, partly ceding to the instances of the Beys of Adrianople, and the injunctions of the Ministry of the Interior, he afterwards consented to the formation of a Commission (*vide* my despatch of the 2nd instant) which should examine the claims of the Mussulmans, and endeavour to settle as many of them as possible by amicable arrangement between the contending parties.

This Commission was in no wise vested with the character of a Tribunal; its functions were limited to suggesting modes of settlement which the interested parties might accept or not, as seemed best to them.

The Beys of Adrianople, however, as is but natural, are far from satisfied with this compromise; and their view of the case continues to be strongly supported by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

Their demands amount to this: that the claims of the Mussulmans shall be treated judicially, and that in every case where property (whether in the form of household goods, clothing, grain, agricultural implements, or live stock) shall be proved to have been intrusted by fugitive Mussulmans to Christians, or appropriated by the latter on the flight of the owners, such property shall be restored, or an equivalent compensation be given.

The objections made by Réouf Pasha to this latter course are founded upon his knowledge of the facts of the situation, and are worthy of consideration. His Excellency in the first place observes, as I have already stated, that it would be incompatible with the spirit of the Sultan's amnesty to enforce the claims in question. That, secondly, it would reopen wounds which he is using his best endeavours to heal, and revive the animosity of races and religion which was excited by late events. Thirdly, that in the majority of instances, even if it should be proved that Mussulman property was intrusted to, or taken possession of by, Christians, the latter would represent (and often with perfect truth) that such property had been forcibly taken from them by the Russians, or by the Bulgarian irregulars; or, in the case of live stock, that having kept it for a time, and being unable to afford the expense of keeping it any longer, they had sold it to cover the expenses which it had entailed on them; or, again, that their own cattle or other property having been previously stolen by inhabitants of some neighbouring Turkish village, they had merely indemnified themselves by taking possession of an equal number of cattle, or an

equivalent amount of goods, which might not be the identical cattle or goods which they had lost, but which were found in the village, inhabitants of which had robbed them in the first instance.

In the beginning of his administration of the Adrianople Vilayet, and immediately after the departure of the Russians, Réouf Pasha encountered much underhand opposition from the local Beys. Their influence at the Porte and among the Mussulman population is great; but he treated them with the high hand, and exiled two of the most powerful members of their caste.

But they continued to work against Réouf Pasha at Constantinople, and their cause seems to have been warmly espoused by the present Cabinet.

Several of these Beys, who had been resident at Constantinople since the arrival of the Russians at Adrianople in 1878, have returned during the past week, and they, with the other Beys who had previously returned, now hold nightly meetings with the object of defeating the policy of the Governor-General. They have already sent emissaries into the Mussulman villages to induce the inhabitants to bring as large a number of petitions as possible before the Commission for the Recovery of Lost Property. The efforts of their agents have resulted in causing an influx of claims of the most trivial nature, such, for instance, as claims for the recovery of a few yards of cloth, or of a couple of fowls, or of a kneading-trough, &c.

Wassa Effendi, speaking no doubt on behalf of Réouf Pasha, expressed to me his conviction that the prosecution of such claims in the manner demanded by the Beys will lead to complications, troubles, and disorders, which will cause further serious embarrassment to the Porte, and may end in endangering the integrity of the diminished realms left to the Sultan in Europe.

To my very humble understanding—and I hope your Excellency will pardon me for expressing this opinion—it appears inconsistent on the part of the Sublime Porte to urge upon the Governor-General of this province a course so radically different to that which has been pursued in the neighbouring Province of Eastern Roumelia, and for which, according to all accounts, Aleko Pasha has received the approbation of the Sultan's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 213.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, on the receipt of the news of the recent attempt on the life of the Emperor of Russia, the Russian Consul in this town sent a message to the Greek and Bulgarian ecclesiastical authorities, requesting them to hold, in his house, a solemn service of thanksgiving for the providential escape of his Sovereign. The Bulgarian Bishop immediately complied with this request; but the *locum tenens* of the Greek Archbishop, who is now absent on a provincial tour, replied that he could not hold a special religious service in behalf of a foreign Sovereign unless the Russian Consul could procure the formal authorization of Réouf Pasha.

I understand that his Excellency has approved of the conduct of the Greek ecclesiastic, and is displeased at that of the Russian Consul, which he does not, moreover, believe will meet with the approbation of the Russian Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 213.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the enrolment of Christians in the army, which constitutes one of the recently promulgated reforms, is not by any means viewed with satisfaction by the Christian population of this vilayet. The reform in question, though it has been so long clamorously demanded on behalf of the Rayahs, is,

now that the prospect of its accomplishment seems imminent, found by the Christians to be infinitely more disagreeable than the payment of an exemption tax, particularly as the pay of the Sultan's troops is known to be greatly in arrear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 213.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on the arrival of the official programme of the reforms decided upon by the Porte, and of which your Excellency has doubtless been furnished with a copy, Réouf Pasha summoned to Adrianople delegates, designated by himself, from the several districts of this province, to form a Commission for the purpose of elaborating a mode of execution of the said reforms, to be framed by the light of their knowledge of local wants and conditions.

This Commission, which consists of Mussulman and Christian members of the District Councils, has already held two sittings. It meets daily at the konak, and its labours will probably extend over ten days or a fortnight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 213.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 7, 1879.

Sir,

I CALLED upon the Governor-General to-day, and had a long conversation with his Excellency on the subject of the difficulties which he has to contend against in his administration of this province.

As his Excellency expressed his intention of calling upon me to-morrow morning and then continuing the conversation which I had with him this afternoon, I will await the result of this second interview before sending to your Excellency a detailed account of Réouf Pasha's remarks.

For the present I will confine myself to stating that, while expressing in heartfelt terms his vexation and sorrow at the malevolent obstruction which his endeavours for the improvement of his vilayet encounter at the Sublime Porte—and he particularly mentioned Osman Pasha as his principal adversary—his Excellency appeared to take by no means a despondent view of affairs, but appeared, on the contrary, to have a robust confidence in the ultimate success of his efforts, if, in virtue of the new reforms, he were confirmed in his post for a period of five years. He showed the interest which he takes in his present mission by expressing a hope that the principle of the irremovability of Provincial Governors might be inaugurated, in the Province of Adrianople, in his own person.

He appeared deeply gratified by the assurance which I gave him that your Excellency would be always ready to give him the benefit of your support; and he expressed an earnest hope that England, while preoccupied with the welfare of Asia Minor, would not altogether withhold her assistance from the consolidation of the Sultan's European dominions.

I ventured to state, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government were most deeply interested in the consolidation and welfare of the European provinces of Turkey, and that I was certain they would do all that lay in their power to that end; and I then endeavoured to impress the Governor-General with the necessity of freely and unreservedly confiding to me all his difficulties, and of assisting me in transmitting to your Excellency the fullest and most accurate information on the progress of events in this province, in order that your Excellency might be the better enabled to co-operate with him.

Réouf Pasha at once, and almost before the words were out of my mouth, stated that such was his own desire and intention.

He spoke to me on the subject of the gendarmerie, of the relief of the Mussulman refugees, and of the claims of the Mussulman Beys and peasantry; but I must reserve

these matters for the despatch which I will have the honour to address to your Excellency to-morrow after the Governor-General's visit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 213.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Rustchuk, November 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that about a fortnight ago a rather serious mutiny took place here amongst the soldiers of the 14th Drujina.

I heard of it at the time, but as they selected four sergeants by lot and flogged them severely, I thought it was merely an every-day affair and not deserving of notice, especially as I was told that the cause of the mutiny was the tyranny of an officer.

It now appears to have been far more serious than we thought, as a Commission of Inquiry has been sitting ever since and have not yet arrived at a decision, and I am informed the original cause of dissatisfaction is the non-payment of the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 213.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, November 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to subjoin translation of a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis, reporting an act of brigandage committed in Samarina, district of Zagori.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 213.

Vice-Consul Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Janina, November 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that last week the notorious brigand Chief Lionidas entered the village of Samarina, burnt down thirty houses, sacked several more, and then departed unmolested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1000.)

Constantinople, December 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, protesting against the proceedings of the Bulgarian Government with regard to the Mahommedan refugees who are seeking to return to their homes in the Principality.

I have forwarded a copy of this note to Mr. Ashburnham.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 214.

Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard, December 9, 1879.

[See Inclosure in No. 242.]

No. 215.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 322.)

Bucharest, December 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying French translation of the communication made this day to the Roumanian Chamber by M. Boeresco, announcing the formal recognition of the independence of this country by Italy, and the expected arrival of Count Tornielli as Italian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at this Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Extract from "L'Indépendance Roumaine" of December 10, 1879.

M. LE Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a fait Dimanche à la Chambre la communication suivante :—

"J'ai l'honneur de communiquer à l'honorable Chambre l'agréable nouvelle que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie a reconnu l'indépendance de la Roumanie.

"M. le Baron Fava, Représentant actuel de l'Italie, et bon ami de la Roumanie, m'a fait aujourd'hui cette communication, d'une manière officielle, et en même temps j'ai reçu aussi la même nouvelle officielle de M. C. Esarcu, notre Représentant à Rome. On nous a demandé notre adhésion, que j'ai donné avec plaisir, à la nomination, comme Ministre Plénipotentiaire et Envoyé Extraordinaire d'Italie en Roumanie, de M. le Comte Tornielli.

"Nous espérons que les trois autres Grandes Puissances, également amies bienveillantes de la Roumanie, nous reconnaîtront prochainement, et établiront des relations permanentes et normales avec l'Etat Roumain libre et indépendant."

Des applaudissements prolongés ont accueilli cette communication.

No. 216.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 324.)

Bucharest, December 8, 1879.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the forms of the Chambers at Bucharest, a Bill, after having been examined in Committee, requires only one reading. This proposal, with regard to the Railway Convention, having been reported on favourably by the Committee, was adopted yesterday by a majority of 29 votes: 71 voting for, and 42 against it, as reported by me in a telegram addressed *en clair* to your Lordship.

The several paragraphs of the Railway Bill will be discussed at once by the Chamber, and, although notice has been given of several amendments, one of these will only, most likely, form the subject of considerable discussion.

Its object will be to place beyond the possibility of a doubt, or future legislation, the transfer of the seat of the Company from Berlin to Bucharest—a question to which immense value is attached by the public here, as I had the honour to mention in my despatch of the 25th ultimo.

Without some such clause in the Convention it will be impossible for the Government to insure its adoption by the Chambers, as the measure is becoming more and more unpopular here for a variety of reasons, to which I need not refer.

The Berlin bankers have, I understand, expressed their concurrence to the removal of the seat of the Company, without, however, consenting to the insertion of a positive stipulation to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A WHITE.

No. 217.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 326. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December 9, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship has kindly informed me, by two telegrams dated the 8th instant, of the communications that have passed with the Italian and German Ambassadors on the subject of the recognition of Roumania and of your desire not to delay it much longer, and that it should be done simultaneously with the other three Western Powers.

Italy has accomplished this formality, and Count Tornielli is expected at Bucharest every moment, but I very much fear that Germany will endeavour to protract recognition on her part until the Railway Purchase Bill has been entirely voted by the Roumanian Legislature.

It is impossible to trace any connection between this Bill and the international obligations upon the fulfilment of which the recognition of Roumania has been made to depend.

A further postponement of that Act looks invidious and is likely to lower the moral influence of the two Powers which have no interest in the sale of the railway, as it gives them the appearance of having adopted an extraneous question as a fresh condition of recognition and of having thus made it depend on an altogether different issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 218.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 328.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December 11, 1879.*

THE final vote on the Railway Purchase Bill was taken in the Chamber of Deputies last night, and this important measure has been adopted almost unanimously, the opponents of this law having either withdrawn from the proceedings or abstained from voting.

Several amendments of minor importance have been introduced into the projected Convention; there is one, however, which may possibly lead to some further discussion with the Berlin bankers, by which the seat of the Company is to be at once transferred from Berlin to Bucharest.

This stipulation has been introduced as a *sine qua non* by the Chamber, and there is no doubt that without such an amendment the entire measure would have been rejected.

It is believed here that such a stipulation had been previously admitted in principle at Berlin, though there is no doubt that objections were made at the same time to its insertion in the preliminary Convention.

The Bill will probably be adopted by the Senate in its present form within the next fortnight and will thus become law, unless the Berlin bankers should consider the amendment introduced as unacceptable, which, it is to be hoped, will not be the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 219.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 329. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December 11, 1879.*

COUNT TORNIELLI has been directed by his Government to delay his arrival at Bucharest for a few days out of deference to the wishes of some of the other Powers; and I believe that he has gone from Belgrade to Pesth, where he is expecting further instructions.

I am told that his credentials have been received at the Italian Legation here, and that this Government hope he will arrive and present them in a few days.

The declaration made by M. Cairoli in the Italian Chamber on the subject of the formal recognition of Roumania has been forwarded here by telegraph, and has given very considerable and general satisfaction as an evidence of the sincere sympathy of Italy for this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 220.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 330. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, marked Secret, in which you most kindly state, for my information, the grounds for which Her Majesty's Government intend to continue to act, in concert with Germany and France, in the matter of the recognition of Roumania.

Your Lordship is no doubt the sole and best judge of the proper course to be followed for adjusting our relations with different individual States in a way most likely to promote British influence by means of alliances giving full security to our manifold interests in different parts of the world.

I beg to assure your Lordship that I have never omitted an opportunity of explaining to official and private persons here that the execution of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin by them was hitherto very imperfect, and that I was sure the Powers would continue to act together with regard to their recognition as they have done hitherto.

I should have been wanting, however, in my duty to your Lordship had I failed in representing respectfully my own apprehensions that the policy followed is likely, if pushed to extremes, to produce serious complications to the detriment of our commercial and other interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 221.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 332. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December 12, 1879.*

THE interest taken by the Government of the German Empire in the Bill for purchasing certain railway lines by Roumania has given that financial scheme quite the character of an important political event as regards this country.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship yesterday some particulars about the passage of this Bill through the Chamber, and reporting the introduction of an amendment in the law by which the legislative sanction of the contract of purchase is made to include the transfer of the seat of the Company from Berlin to Bucharest.

I beg to inclose an extract from the leading financial paper here, in which the animadversions of the "Nord Deutsche Allgemeine" on this amendment are reproduced and the Roumanian view of the question is explained.

All parties appear to agree in considering the purchase unacceptable unless the clause here referred to can be maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 222.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 808. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 15, 1879.

PRINCE REUSS, the German Ambassador, who has just returned here from leave of absence, has spoken to me of the extreme displeasure felt by his Government at the course followed by the Roumanian Government on the railway question.

It had been agreed upon and perfectly understood that though the German Government were willing that the seat of the Administration should be removed from Berlin to Bucharest the consent of the shareholders must be obtained at a general meeting, the Government not having the power of making the change without their sanction.

The Roumanian Government had, however, accepted a proposal made in the Chamber of Deputies by which this condition is eliminated, and unless the original clause is restored by the Upper Chamber the result will be that the German Government will look upon the Convention as entirely annulled.

Prince Reuss observed that this proceeding would again prevent the recognition of the independence of the Principality which was in a fair way of being agreed to, and this open avowal that the recognition on the part of Germany does not depend upon the question of religious liberty, but upon a matter in which other Governments have no concern, appears to merit your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 223.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 810. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 17, 1879.

YOUR Lordship has, I am told, already been informed by Count Károly of the refusal of the Austro-Hungarian Government to agree to a concerted action by the Great Powers to induce the Porte to accomplish the cession of Gussinjé to Montenegro.

Baron Calice says that the Imperial Government, which is in an exceptional position owing to the prominent part it has taken in this matter, saw no result likely to follow on a concerted action of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, and considered the suggestion of sending Commissioners to Albania altogether objectionable.

His Excellency having, however, at the same time animadverted in strong terms upon the delay of the Porte in surrendering the district, I asked him to tell me distinctly what it was that was required of the Sultan's Government, for I had understood from Baron Haymerle that they were only expected formally to announce to Montenegro that the territory in question was recognized as incorporated in the Principality, and this appeared to me to have been done.

In corroboration of this view I read to Baron Calice a part of Mr. Green's despatch to your Lordship, No. 152 of the 9th ultimo, reporting that Khalil Bey, the Turkish Envoy, had in his presence, and speaking in the name of the Sultan, announced to the Prince that "as far as the Ottoman Empire is concerned Gussinjé forms an integral part of Montenegro."

The Porte seemed, therefore, to have done what was expected here, and there appeared no just ground for serious complaint, if it now showed an anxiety that the territory should not be occupied till the inhabitants had been brought to reconcile themselves to the transfer.

The object of the Porte in sending a considerable military force into the country had not at first been apparent; but as it now seemed to have been sent to intercept the Albanians who might wish to make common cause with the inhabitants of Gussinjé, the measure appeared well adapted to insure the Montenegrin occupation taking place without resistance or bloodshed.

Baron Calice was not aware of the formal manner in which the Turkish Envoy had announced to Prince Nicholas the Sultan's recognition of Gussinjé as Montenegrin territory, but he insisted that the Porte would not have performed its duty till it was announced to them by an explicit Proclamation that they had ceased to be Ottoman subjects, and that if they resisted the Montenegrins they must bear the whole consequences that would follow without expecting assistance from any quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 223*.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1238.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 18, 1879.

AFTER I had closed my despatch No. 1233 of to-day, I received a visit from M. Waddington, who told me that he should send this evening to the French Ambassador in London instructions formally to invite Her Majesty's Government to join in mediating on the question of the Greco-Turkish frontier. The Ambassador would, he said, at the same time submit to your Lordship a definite line of frontier which the French Government recommended to the adoption of the Great Powers.

An exactly similar communication would, M. Waddington added, be addressed immediately to the Governments of Austria-Hungary, Germany, Italy, and Russia.

M. Waddington proceeded to tell me that the line of frontier thus recommended by France would leave Janina to Turkey, but would assign Mezzovo and compensations in Thessaly to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 224.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 20, 1879.

ONE George Constantin, a Bosnian, has told Lord Lyons that two Russian Agents, Kanieff and Azoff, who worked for Russia in Servia and Bosnia, are to go to Cyprus to stir up discontent; both are tall, dark men, wearing moustache, former about 48, latter 40. Azoff left Paris for Berlin on the 3rd instant to await Kanieff, who is in Russia. They would frequent a Viennese café where Slave newspapers are taken in, situated in the Galerie Impériale, on Passage Royal, at Berlin.

No. 225.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20, 3 P.M.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, December* 20, 1879, *noon.*

AFTER very considerable hesitation Roumanian Government, yielding to friendly advice, have decided to give way to the demands of Germany by proposing to Chambers to reinstate original text of Railway Convention by which the transfer of the seat of the Company is to be decided by a future general assembly of shareholders, whilst amendment introduced by Chamber and so violently opposed at Berlin assigned the settlement of the future domicile to the first general assembly instead of the second.

Before announcing this resolve to the Chambers, a request has been sent to Berlin begging for certain facilities likely to diminish virulence of opposition with which it is sure to be met in the Chambers, where fate of the original Convention continues extremely

doubtful. A change of Ministry would by no means facilitate matters, as the entire Opposition is pledged to reject Convention which Germany wishes to see adopted.

No. 226.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20, 3 P.M.)

(No. 787.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 20, 1879, 2·50 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed a note to the Greek Plenipotentiaries in reply to theirs, complaining of the adjournment of the Conference and threatening to break off negotiations, referred to in my telegram No. 784 of the 16th instant, stating that in consequence of the necessity of examining the new line proposed by them he cannot at this moment fix a day for resuming the Conference, and requesting them not to take any extreme resolution, as he will appoint the earliest day possible for a meeting.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 227.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 591.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 20, 1879.*

THE Italian Ambassador, speaking of Roumania, informed me on the 16th instant that Count Tornielli was already on his way to Bucharest, armed with his credentials; that they would be presented as soon as he arrived, and that the recognition of Roumania had been decided upon by the Italian Government with the approval of both sides of the Italian Chamber.

I said that I understood that the impression was entertained at Berlin that the Italian credentials would not be presented until the other Powers had agreed to take a similar step.

General Menabrea denied that there was any foundation for the impression, and stated that the delay was due to Count Tornielli not having yet arrived at Bucharest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 228.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 610. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 15, 1879.*

I HAVE been confidentially informed that Prince Bismarck, who is indignant at the attempts of the Roumanian Government to evade the obligations contracted at Berlin through their Representative, M. Stourdza, in regard to the sale of the Roumanian railways, has sent a telegram to request Baron Haymerle to make it known that if the Railway Convention is not adopted by the Legislature unchanged and as settled at Berlin, he will feel compelled to act, in concert with the Russian Government, for the purpose of depriving Roumania of Arab-Tabia.

I have heard it said on good authority that this threat is due to the influence of Count Schouvaloff, who is at present at Varzin on a visit to Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 229.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 669.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires asked me to-day as to the prospects of an early surrender to Montenegro of Gussinjé-Plava.

I said that the reports which had reached me were not of a very recent date, but that, according to the best judgment I could form, the Porte were doing their best to carry the surrender of that spot into execution. They have withdrawn their officials, and all action indicating the exercise of Turkish sovereignty; they have proclaimed to the inhabitants that their territory was thenceforth Montenegrin, and they had assembled a force to prevent resistance being encouraged by the Albanian tribes.

It appeared to me, I said, that the Porte had fulfilled its obligations, and that the rest of the task fell to Montenegro to perform.

I represented to M. Bartholomei that, unless the Prince of Montenegro dissipated the apprehensions of the inhabitants with respect to their own future fate under his rule, a peaceable surrender was not probable, especially in view of the sufferings to which Mahommedans who had been transferred to Christian Rulers were being exposed in other parts of the Balkan Peninsula.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 230.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1516.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1879.*

I SAW Musurus Pasha this afternoon, who spoke to me of the representations which had been made to the Porte by Austria, and supported by England, upon the necessity of accelerating the cession of Gussinjé-Plava to Montenegro. He appeared to be under the impression that the two Powers desired to force upon the Porte the duty of compelling the inhabitants of the district under discussion to receive the authorities of Montenegro.

I answered that this was not the case; our representations had not touched upon that question. The point upon which Her Majesty's Government desired to insist was that the Porte should make the inhabitants of the district thoroughly understand that the cession of their country, having been determined upon by the Treaty of Berlin, was now inevitable, and that they should not be left to the illusory expectation of any assistance, either from the irregular Albanian troops or from the Sultan.

He assured me, in reply, that the people of Gussinjé had been warned in the most formal manner that their country was now Montenegrin territory; that all officers bearing the Sultan's commission, and all emblems of his authority, had been withdrawn, and that every step had been taken which it was in the power of the Turkish Government to take in order to make it quite clear that the district was no longer part of Turkey. He added that the measures which were being taken by the Prince of Montenegro did not seem to him likely to insure that peaceable submission of the people which both Powers desired to bring about. The Prince of Montenegro had openly threatened the extermination of all the Mahommedan inhabitants. Looking, he said, at the injustice and the cruelty that was being practised upon numbers of their faith in Servia, in Bulgaria, and in Eastern Roumelia, and at the utter impotence of the Signatory Powers to prevent these grave violations of the Treaty of Berlin, it was natural that the inhabitants of Gussinjé should anticipate a similar fate for themselves, and, drawing from the threats of the Prince of Montenegro a confirmation of their fears, should resist the surrender of their country to the utmost.

I answered that I entirely agreed with him in condemning the language which the Prince of Montenegro had used; that Her Majesty's Representative at Cettinjé had, without waiting for instructions, earnestly protested against the inhuman threats of the Montenegrin Government, and that I would press upon the Prince the impolicy of his proceedings, and the improbability of his obtaining a peaceable surrender of the disputed territory unless he held out to the inhabitants a fair prospect of security for their lives and property; but I urged on his Excellency the importance of giving no ground for the

suspicion that either the Sultan's Government or any of the local authorities were seeking to delay the stipulated cession.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 231.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received December* 23.)

Admiralty, December 22, 1879.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following extract from a letter from Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby, dated the 8th instant:—

"The 'Coquette' called at Suda Bay on the 14th ultimo, on her way to the Pirœus of Athens, and Lieutenant and Commander Festing reports that he was informed by Her Majesty's Consul that affairs in Crete were quiet and in every way satisfactory."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 232.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 789.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December* 23, 1879, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 314, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs assures me that the Porte will follow the recommendation of Turkish Ambassador at Vienna with respect to Gussinjé.

No. 233.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 790.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December* 23, 1879, 11·18 A.M.

GREEK Plenipotentiaries have given the Turks to the 27th instant to renew conferences on Frontier question. If by that time no meeting is held, and no definite proposal made by the Porte, they will break off negotiations and refer to Athens for instructions.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 235.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 23, 1879, 7·15 P.M.

THE Turkish Ambassador has represented to me that peaceable surrender of Gussinjé is unlikely so long as Prince takes no measures to assure Mussulman population of security for life and property.

Impress upon him the danger of using any language likely to suggest to them a fate similar to that which Mahommedans are suffering in Bulgaria.

No. 236.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 23, 1879, 5·45 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Government, having received a Circular from the Porte about the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to permit the return of the expelled or fugitive

Mussulmans, propose to address Prince Alexander on the subject, and to say that, while they recognize the difficulty of providing for a number of destitute persons, they cannot admit that Bulgarian subjects can with any right be prevented by formalities about passport visas from returning to their own country.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs proposes that Turkish and Bulgarian Commissioners should proceed to the frontier, where they can quickly ascertain whether the persons proposing to enter the Principality are entitled to do so or not.

No. 237.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23, 8 P.M.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 23, 1879, 6 P.M.

A VERY long telegram has been communicated by the Turkish Ambassador to the Austrian Government conveying assurance of Porte's determination to execute Treaty as regards Gussinjé, and explaining the delay as resulting from difficulty in overcoming the opposition of the population.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has answered by again urging Porte to lose no time in handing a formal act of cession to the Prince, and in notifying to the people that they have ceased to be subjects of the Sultan, which is all that is required of the Turkish Government. His Excellency has also, I understand, recommended patience to the Prince of Montenegro.

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 62.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 23, 1879.

THE Turkish Ambassador has represented to me that it is improbable that the surrender of Gussinjé-Plava by the Porte to Montenegro can be effected without bloodshed so long as Prince Nicholas takes no measures to insure to the Mussulman population of the district security for their lives and property. You would do well to impress upon His Highness the danger of using such threatening language as would be likely to suggest to the Mahommedans the possibility of their meeting with a fate similar to that to which their brethren in Bulgaria are being subjected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 5, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 226, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of two telegrams dated 19th November and 2nd December respectively, addressed by the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Saïd Pasha in reply to His Highness' telegrams of the 15th and 27th November on the subject of the entry of Mussulman refugees into Bulgaria.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Government of the Prince continues to throw the responsibility of the measures which it has taken to stop the influx of refugees on the Porte owing to the latter having neglected to furnish the necessary information while there was yet time to make preparation for their reception.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 239.

M. Balabanow to Saïd Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Le $\frac{7}{19}$ Novembre*, 1879.

D'ORDRE de Son Altesse, j'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la dépêche de votre Altesse, en date du 15 Novembre courant.

Désirant faciliter la réinstallation des Musulmans réfugiés qui en réalité provenaient des localités appartenant à la Principauté, et prévoyant que l'accumulation de ces réfugiés aux frontières ne pourrait être qu'une nouvelle source de désordres et de souffrances, Son Altesse, sous date $\frac{4}{16}$ Août dernier, avait demandé au Premier Ministre la liste de réfugiés qui voulaient retourner, afin de pouvoir vérifier leur lieu de provenance et préparer leur réinstallation. Vu que cette liste n'a pas été encore communiquée et par conséquent aucune mesure n'a pas pu être prise pour préparer la réinstallation des réfugiés, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse a été obligé d'arrêter leur afflucnce et la responsabilité en retombe sur la Sublime Porte.

L'ordre de ne pas laisser les réfugiés passer les frontières n'a été donné qu'après qu'un grand nombre était entré dans le pays et qu'on s'était assuré qu'une partie de ces réfugiés n'étaient pas natifs de la Bulgarie.

Son Altesse regrette qu'à l'heure qu'il est des difficultés de toute espèce et des considérations d'humanité ne lui permettent pas de retirer cet ordre.

Inclosure 2 in No. 239.

M. Balabanow to Saïd Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Le* $\frac{12 \text{ Novembre}}{1 \text{ Décembre}}$ 1879.

D'ORDRE de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie je me réfère à mon télégramme à votre Altesse du $\frac{7}{19}$ Novembre, qui répond par avance au télégramme de votre Altesse du $\frac{15}{27}$ le même. Le Gouvernement Princier regrette de ne pas pouvoir actuellement s'écarter de la ligne de conduite qu'il s'est tracée dans cette question. Comme j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de le dire à votre Altesse dans mon télégramme cité plus haut, la responsabilité n'en retombe pas sur le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince.

No. 240.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 25. Consular.)

My Lord, *Sophia, December 6*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel, giving an account of the language held by the Armenian Archbishop of Beshiktash on the occasion of his visit to Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 240.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Sir, *Rustchuk, November 18*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Archbishop of Beshiktash ("Nar Bey") arrived here on the 8th and celebrated a High Mass on Sunday, the 9th, to which, along with my colleagues and the local authorities, I was invited.

After the Mass there was a reunion in the house where "his Eminence" was lodged, during which he made a speech to the effect that he had committed the Armenians resident in Bulgaria to submit willingly to the conscription, as by that means they might be educated into good soldiers, and shortly take part in the deliverance of their own country from the oppression of the Turks.

During the Mass and afterwards this Prelate wore the Star of the Osmanie, as if it

was quite appropriate for him to preach treason to his lawful Sovereign in one of the principal towns of his dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 241.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 162. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, December 11*, 1879.

THE interruption of all telegraphic and postal lines through the negligence of the local authorities, and the gales which have prevailed, have prevented me from reporting earlier to your Lordship the occurrence of a serious encounter on the 4th instant between the Albanians and Montenegrins in the Gussinjé district.

In letters received by Mahommedans here, it is stated that two battalions of Montenegrins having crossed the River Lim, and occupied the village of Novsicé, the inhabitants of Plava and the village of Prujavoi, supported by the contingent of Prisrend volunteers, managed, on the morning of Thursday, the 4th, to place themselves between the river and the Montenegrins, and shortly afterwards a hand-to-hand engagement ensued and resulted in the massacre of the entire Montenegrin force, the swollen state of the Lim preventing any from escaping. Sixty heads were carried in triumph to Gussinjé.

Christian mountaineers from the neighbourhood confirms the destruction of the Montenegrins, but say they only numbered about 300, and that three standards were brought to Gussinjé with the heads.

From Montenegrin unofficial sources I learn that the above occurrence is depicted as a success against the Albanians.

The village of Novsicé had been occupied by half a battalion, but on the morning of the 4th, General Bojo Petrovich, from the heights on the other side of the Lim, perceiving the exposed position of the force, signalled to it to return, and a reply being given that it was already surrounded by the Albanians, he dispatched two battalions to its assistance, and disengaged it. The Montenegrins place their loss at 150 killed, and as many wounded, and that of the Albanians at 600 killed.

I believe, however, that there can be no doubt that the Montenegrins, trusting, perhaps, too much in the power of the Turkish Government to prevent a collision, allowed themselves to be surprised, and have suffered a severe loss. Probably the Albanians, on their side, were unable to resist the opportunity offered by the isolated position of the Montenegrin advanced guard, through a sudden rise of the Lim waters, to snatch a success which would put an end to all uncertainty about their intention to submit to the cession of their territory to Montenegro.

Although I am as yet unaware of the manner in which the Montenegrin Government will accept the resistance it has encountered, I fear much that the Turkish Government will continue in the policy which has led to the present complication.

In all my reports I have invariably pointed out that immediate and energetic action on the part of the Porte was necessary to prevent the Albanians from compromising the position by an act of aggression. Unfulfilled promises and delay have fructified into an attack in which the Ottoman local authorities now are almost disposed to claim a hand; but they will probably early ascertain the little cause they have for exultation.

The success at Gussinjé has already given rise to a torrent of abuse and complaint by the Mahommedan Albanians against the Ottoman Government. They see in it a proof that their past losses and sacrifices have arisen from their connection with the Turks, and they are now confident that they have only to stand alone to maintain their territory and honour intact.

The Montenegrins are, furthermore, already marching in great strength against Gussinjé, and, if not checked, they will avenge the death of their fellow-countrymen in a manner considered perfectly legitimate in these barbarous countries; but as the Porte will have, even then, to maintain an apparent neutrality, the loss of its authority will still be almost unavoidable.

The Albanians, under Ali Pasha, are said to number from 10,000 to 12,000, and the recent success will doubtless momentarily augment their ranks, unless Moukhtar Pasha arrives shortly in the districts of Ipek and Jacova, and can sufficiently count on the fidelity of his troops to enforce his orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 242.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 24.*)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 23 Décembre,* 1879.

EN me référant à l'entretien que j'ai eu hier avec votre Excellence au sujet du refus du Gouvernement Bulgare de permettre aux émigrés Musulmans de rentrer dans leur pays, j'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence une copie de la note que la Sublime Porte a adressée dernièrement aux Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople sur cette question, et de lui réitérer mes instances pour qu'elle veuille bien faire des démarches efficaces après du Gouvernement Princier de la Bulgarie à l'effet de mettre fin aux souffrances des malheureux réfugiés arrêtés à la frontière Bulgare et en proie au plus profond dénûment.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Sawas Pasha to the Representatives of the Six Great Powers at Constantinople.

SON Altesse le Premier Ministre a adressé le 27 Novembre à Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie un télégramme pour lui signaler la situation critique à laquelle sont réduits les émigrés Musulmans de Bulgarie, qui, s'étant mis en route pour rentrer dans leur pays, se sont vus refuser l'accès du territoire Bulgare, sous le prétexte que leurs passeports n'étaient pas revêtus du visa d'un Agent du Gouvernement Princier. Par la même dépêche, son Altesse le Premier Ministre, tout en réservant à un examen ultérieur cette question du visa des passeports, invitait le Prince de la manière la plus pressante à donner les ordres pour que ces malheureux émigrés fussent admis à franchir la frontière et à regagner leurs foyers.

Le Gouvernement Princier à répondu par le télégramme suivant :—

"D'ordre de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, je me réfère à mon télégramme à votre Altesse du $\frac{7}{19}$ Novembre qui répond par avance au télégramme de votre Altesse du $\frac{15}{27}$ du même. Le Gouvernement Princier regrette de ne pas pouvoir s'écarter actuellement de la ligne de conduite qu'il s'est tracée dans cette question. Comme j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de le dire à votre Altesse dans mon télégramme cité plus haut, la responsabilité n'en retombe pas sur le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince.

(Signé) "BALABANOFF."

En même temps, l'Ambassade Britannique a communiqué à la Sublime Porte une Note Circulaire adressée le $\frac{1}{13}$ Novembre dernier par le Gouvernement Princier aux Agents Diplomatiques des Puissances à Sophia dans le but de les prévenir que désormais l'entrée du territoire de la Principauté serait refusée aux émigrés Musulmans qui se présenteraient à la frontière pour se rapatrier, tant que durera la mauvaise saison et jusqu'à ce qu'on eût vérifié l'exactitude de leurs déclarations quant au lieu de leur provenance.

Cette mesure, arrêtée sans consulter la Sublime Porte et mise à exécution sans même qu'elle en eût été avisée, constitue assurément une atteinte aux règles qui régissent les rapports entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté, et une infraction aux prescriptions du Traité de Berlin, qui assure aux émigrés la pleine liberté de retourner dans leur pays et le respect de leurs personnes et de leurs biens. Mais c'est aussi et avant tout un acte d'inhumanité qui condamne des milliers de réfugiés à périr de froid et de faim, puisqu'ils sont empêchés de rentrer dans leur pays et qu'ils n'ont plus les moyens de retourner sur leurs pas et de revenir aux lieux d'où ils sont partis.

Ce n'est pas ainsi que la Sublime Porte a traité les Bulgares qui, après avoir émigré des provinces Ottomanes, se sont présentés pour se rapatrier. Tous ont reçu le meilleur accueil et ont été l'objet de la sollicitude et de la bienveillance des autorités Ottomanes.

En appelant l'attention de votre Excellence sur la mesure si grave prise par le Gouvernement Princier, mon intention n'est pas de répondre aujourd'hui à la Note Circulaire dont je viens de reproduire la douloureuse conclusion, ni de rechercher ce qu'il peut y avoir de fondé dans le reproche adressé à la Sublime Porte d'avoir

quelquefois tardé à envoyer les indications demandées sur le lieu d'origine des rapatriés, et si cette condition est toujours réalisable, ni enfin de considérer si toutes ces formalités minutieuses, y comprise celle du visa des passeports, ne sont point de nature à paralyser l'exercice d'un droit solennellement proclamé dans le Traité de Berlin. Ces questions pourront être examinées et résolues d'un commun accord, et la Sublime Porte est disposée à se prêter à toutes mesures qui, au lieu d'apporter au rapatriement des réfugiés des obstacles insurmontables, seraient destinées à le favoriser. En ce moment, la Sublime Porte est sollicitée de consacrer tous ses soins à un objet plus pressant, celui de sauver les malheureux qui, sur la foi des assurances qu'ils recevaient de tout côté, et espérant que le Traité de Berlin ne devait pas être considéré comme lettre-morte à leur égard, ont entrepris ce long voyage de retour et se trouvent aujourd'hui arrêtés à l'entrée de leur pays, sans abri, sans ressources, et menacés de périr de faim et de froid. Nous nous refusons à admettre que l'absence de quelques formalités dont la nécessité n'a jamais été d'ailleurs établie, puisse justifier une mesure aussi cruelle et dont le Gouvernement Impérial, pris au dépourvu, est impuissant à empêcher ou à atténuer les effets.

En portant ces faits et cette situation à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'espoir qu'elle voudra bien obtenir que son Gouvernement concourre, au nom du droit et de l'humanité, à faire ouvrir sans retard aux réfugiés Musulmans les portes de leurs pays et à les soustraire ainsi à l'horrible sort qui les attend ; sous réserve de prendre, de concert avec le Gouvernement Princier, les meilleures mesures pour empêcher que de pareils faits puissent se reproduire.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, qui n'a reculé devant aucun sacrifice pour exécuter le Traité de Berlin et pour se conformer à ce sujet aux recommandations des Puissances, sollicite aujourd'hui à son tour l'exécution de ce Traité et son exacte application dans les circonstances pénibles qui nous préoccupent à si juste titre.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

Le 9 Décembre, 1879.

No. 243.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 24.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December 23,* 1879.

THE Assembly has elected its permanent Committee, composed exclusively of Bulgarians.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 244.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 24.*)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December 23,* 1879.

AT second public meeting presided yesterday by Exarch, Refugee Relief Society was finally constituted. Appeal will be made to Europe for funds. Local subscriptions cannot yield much. Ambassador has sent 500*l.*

Could your Lordship kindly adopt same measures as last year for raising some money for relief of starving refugees ?

No. 245.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 25.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, December 24,* 1879, 4 P.M.

YOUR telegram of 19th received to-day.

I cannot say whether proclamation of proposition would have the desired result, as Albanians only ask to be left alone, and might take it for an indirect assurance in that sense.

The countenance given by Russia to Porte's explanations about inability to surrender

district is probably aimed at creating difficulties by having [?] proposed in the direction of Novi-Bazar or the Herzegovina.

The most serious feature in the whole question appears to me the blindness of Turkey to the danger to herself from prolonging the state of anarchy in Albania, and, instead of constantly negotiating for delay which Montenegro will always in reason accord, the Porte ought to lose no time to put an end to the belief which it has fostered that it is no longer master in North-eastern Albania.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 246.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 794.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, December 24, 1879.*

MONTENEGRIN Minister informs me that he will probably leave on Friday for Cnegro.

(Sent to Green.)

No. 247.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 25, 1879.*

THE Italian Government have accepted and promised to support new French proposal respecting Greek frontier question, leaving Janina to Turkey, and granting compensation to Greece in Thessaly.

No. 248.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, December 25, 1879.*

ACTIVE negotiations continue between Berlin and Bucharest about disputed amendment in the Railway Bill. It is hoped that Roumania can be induced yet to reconsider position taken, and that Ministry will determine to yield out of deference to advice given by all the Powers except Russia and Turkey, but should the Chambers ultimately refuse this, and the Ministry find themselves unable to pull the measure through, most serious consequences might follow from the resentment of Germany, as it would be impossible for a long time to settle purchase of the railway.

No. 249.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

Foreign Office, December 25, 1879, 7·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IF Austrian Agent has received instructions to urge on Bulgarian Government reception of Mahommedan refugees, you should make a similar representation, concerting your action with him.

No. 250.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 25, 4 P.M.)

(No. 795.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, December 25, 1879, 1·30 P.M.*

PLEASE instruct me as to reply I should [? make] upon following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo:—

"I have just learnt that a paid French Vice-Consul has been appointed at Marash, and is expected to arrive shortly. It is most desirable that English Vice-Consul should be appointed there at once, as the French are doing all they can by means of Roman Catholic priests to destroy our influence with the Mahommedan and Armenian population. Could student Dragoman be sent to Marash pending decision of Foreign Office as to appointment of a Vice-Consul there?

No. 251.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 159.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 25, 1879.*

IN the event of your Austrian colleague having received instructions to urge the Government of Bulgaria to permit the Mahommedan refugees to return to their homes in that Principality, I have to instruct you to concert your action with him, and to make similar representations in the name of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1091.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1075 of the 7th instant, Mr. Dragoman Alischan has informed me that he has had some conversation with Vahan Effendi, Mustechar of the Ministry of Justice, on the subject of the new laws respecting criminal jurisprudence in Turkey.

He states that Vahan Effendi admitted that the new laws were defective, and assured him that a Commission has been appointed for the revision of the law of criminal procedure.

This determination has been notified to the Dragomans of other foreign Missions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 253.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1092.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Circular which has been published in the semi-official journal the "Turquie," addressed to the Governors-General and Mutessarifs under the direct orders of the Constantinople authorities, with reference to the punctual payment of the salaries of the gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 253.

Extract from "La Turquie" of December 9, 1879.

LA Sublime Porte a transmis aux Gouverneurs-Généraux et aux Mutessarifs relevant directement de Constantinople, la Circulaire suivante en date du 26 Novembre (v. s.):—

"La gendarmerie étant un des principaux moyens de l'exécution des actes du Gouvernement il est indispensable que les appointements des gendarmes ne restent pas en souffrance et qu'ils soient payés régulièrement à la fin de chaque mois.

"Par conséquent, dans le cas où les recettes dans les districts, sandjaks, et chefslieux des vilayets ne seraient pas suffisantes pour le payement des appointements de tous les employés civils le règlement de la solde des gendarmes doit avoir la priorité. Il est nécessaire que cette mesure soit partout observée strictement.

"Les Inspecteurs des Finances ont reçu des instructions pour surveiller l'exécution de cette mesure et il est décidé que tout fonctionnaire, sans égard à son grade et à son poste qui agira contrairement à cet ordre, sera tenu responsable et destitué de ses fonctions.

"Cette mesure a été portée à la connaissance du Séraskérat et a été aussi communiquée pour instruction aux Gouverneurs-Généraux et aux Mutessarifs relevant directement de Constantinople."

No. 254.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1093.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Notice issued by the Ministry of Public Instruction, and published in the "Turquie," announcing the opening of a College by the Porte for the study of Foreign languages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 254.

Extract from "La Turquie" of December 9, 1879.

MINISTÈRE DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE.

Avis.

UNE des principales réformes que l'on doit à la bienveillante initiative de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, est la création de l'Ecole des Langues. Cette nouvelle institution vient d'être ouverte sous les auspices de Sa Majesté et en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial.

Les langues enseignées dans cette école sont le Turc, l'Arabe, le Français, le Grec, l'Arménien, l'Anglais, l'Allemand, et le Russe; les trois premières sont obligatoires, les autres facultatives.

Les élèves diplômés de cette école seront nommés employés du Gouvernement aux différentes Administrations et aux Bureaux de Traduction; ils seront aussi libres de choisir la carrière commerciale ou industrielle.

Tout élève sujet Ottoman ayant le diplôme d'une école Ruchdié ou possédant des connaissances analogues, sera admis à l'Ecole des Langues

On s'adressera pour les inscriptions à l'Administrateur des Ecoles et Institutions Supérieures, Aristoclès Effendi, au Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, à Tchemberli-Tach, tous les jours, excepté le Vendredi et le Dimanche, de 7 à 10 heures à la Turque.

Constantinople, le $\frac{29 \text{ Novembre}}{11 \text{ Décembre}}$ 1879.

No. 255.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1094.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 11, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1023 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Sawas Pasha has promised to send instructions at once to the Turkish authorities in Macedonia to protect the Bulgarians of Eleshnitza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 256.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1096.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an article which appeared in the "Commercial Advertiser" of yesterday's date, relative to the position of the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria. I have sent a copy of it to Mr. Ashburnham.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Extract from the "Commercial Advertiser" of December 11, 1879.

BULGARIA: THE CASE OF THE MUSSULMAN INHABITANTS.—The Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria, and more especially of the districts in contiguity with Varna, have drawn up a comprehensive and interesting exposition of their grievances, for the information of all whom it may concern, of which statement we give a full summary as follows:—

"During the late war, and after the retreat of the Ottoman army from Hadji-Oglou, Bazardjik, and its occupation by a Russian *corps d'armée*, the inhabitants of the district of Touldja, of different nationalities, joined with the villages of Varna, and anarchy began to reign in the country. The war having just broken out at harvest time, and the districts of Mangalia, Bazardjik, and Baltjik, whose chief riches consisted in cattle, having been hemmed in by the two armies, the agriculturalists lost everything and remained totally destitute. The Roumanian Government, taking into consideration the wretched condition of the population, does not claim debts contracted towards the savings-banks of the country which has passed under Roumanian rule. The Bulgarian authorities of Bazardjik, on the contrary, basing their claims on an old book, exact the debts contracted by agriculturists towards the savings-bank, and condemn to prison those who refuse to pay in money or in "sennets," or to offer a guarantee for the claimed sum.

"The above-mentioned savings-bank was founded by the Mussulman inhabitants of the country, and in their name, in order to prevent agriculturists from becoming a prey to usurers. Its capital consisted of the harvest produce of one "deumun" of land, which was yearly cultivated by every inhabitant who was in possession of a pair of oxen. The equivalent of the sum deposited by each agriculturist in the bank could be borrowed by him at any time. The fact, therefore, that the Bulgarian authorities are trying to re-establish this bank with the old funds, and that they are apprehending men whose only fault is in the withdrawal of what they had advanced, is a most arbitrary act of injustice, which naturally tends to drive the Mussulman inhabitants away from their homes.

"When a Mussulman sells landed property in order to leave his country, and appears before the authority for its surrender, he is made to go through all the Government Departments, so as to prove that he is not in the Government's debt. And when he comes to the bank which is about to be re-established, he is told that he is in debt for 10,000 or 20,000 piastres, and is sent to prison forthwith until such time as he consents to pay the sum that is claimed from him.

"The inhabitants of Varna, of which the above districts form part, amounted to

86,000 and more, of whom 66,000 were Mussulmans, and the remainder Greeks, Bulgarians, and Israelites. The latter not being agriculturists, and the Greeks, who are so, being very few in number, there remain some 10,000 or 11,000 Bulgarians, most of whom inhabit Varna, and Pravadi, so that in the districts of Baltjik, Bazardjik, and Mangalia, there is one Bulgarian to fifteen Mussulmans. Were a partition of the funds which were put into the savings-bank to take place, it would be worthy of note that the proportion between Bulgarian and Mussulman would be as one to fifteen. Now, it is most unjust that a man should be so ill-used for having withdrawn a sum which had been deposited by him, and that he should be obliged to quit his country empty-handed, after selling his property 15 per cent. under its value.

"Those who have taken to cultivating their land are subjected to endless vexations by the Bulgarians, who are never called to account for them. Their only alternative, therefore, is to leave their country in a state of painful destitution, and to seek a refuge, either at Constantinople or in the cities situated on the coast. In conformity with the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty, we were to enter in possession of our land and of our rights. Not only has this clause not been carried out, but we are also called upon to furnish with money the bank which the Bulgarian Principality is about to establish.

"Had we not been forced to migrate and lose our crops and cattle, had we been allowed to remain in our homes like the inhabitants of Silistria, Pravadi, and Varna, we might, although the funds in the bank belonged to us, and had nothing to do with the Berlin Treaty and Government Acts, pay our debt to the savings-bank, and Roumania would not probably fail to take the same measures with regard to the districts that are under her rule. But we are unfortunately totally ruined, and yet we are made to pay the sum which we ourselves deposited and withdrew, just as if we were in debt for it with the bank. This is a most arbitrary act, and we beg the foreign representatives kindly to take into consideration our unfortunate situation. Even were this debt recognized as a privileged one, our wretched condition should be taken into consideration, and its payment not be enforced upon us. Indeed, we believe that were the Bulgarian Ministers cognisant of the real state of things, they would not allow so much injustice to go on.

"The Berlin Congress decided that the inhabitants of Bulgaria should enter in possession of their rights of property, but unfortunately we have not. The landed property belonging to mosques, schools, &c., has been confiscated, and our schools, our *medressés*, and mosques will consequently remain shut. We earnestly request European intervention in our behalf in order that all this injustice should be put an end to.

"On the other hand, farm rents have been due to us for the last three years, and are still due notwithstanding our repeated applications to the authorities. We therefore implore the Ambassadors to befriend us, in order that we should obtain these arrears, and, in conformity with the decision of the Powers, recover our property rights, and we also beg that our statement may be communicated to Constantinople through the Bulgarian Agent."

No. 257.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1097.)

Constantinople, December 12, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1071 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter published in the "Commercial Advertiser" of yesterday, from its correspondent at Bucharest, relative to the Koutzo Wallach movement in Macedonia and elsewhere.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 257.

Extract from the "Commercial Advertiser" of December 11, 1879.

Bucharest, December 6, 1879.

THE KOUTZO-WALLACH MOVEMENT IN ROUMANIA.—The movement for the diffusion of education amongst the Wallachs of Macedonia, of which mention was made in a recent letter, grows stronger and more general. A Society has been formed in Bucharest, called

the "Macedo-Roumanian Education Society," with an Executive Committee, composed of Messrs. Kitso, Gogn, Urechia, and Missail, and it has already begun its work. It is an effort to repair past neglect and forgetfulness. The Roumanians, who have now learned to appreciate the benefits of education and progress, are eager to offer a helping hand to their brethren across the Danube, to deliver them from the bonds of ignorance, and to show them the light of intellectual culture. M. Demetrius Bratiano, who is a tried patriot, and the constant champion of all that tends to the progress and enlightenment of his fellow-countrymen, was amongst the first to co-operate in this work of national philanthropy, in presenting the "Macedo-Roumanian Education Society" with a donation of 1,000 fr. His example has been followed by many other persons of influence, and there can be no doubt that the Society will shortly have at its command a considerable capital, besides books and other donations in kind, for the schools which it will be its mission to found and to endow.

The first Article of the Statutes of the Association sets forth that its objects are:—

First, to diffuse instruction amongst the Roumanians of the Balkan Peninsula by means of schools, beginning with primary schools, in the Roumanian language.

Secondly, to take measures for the maintenance of churches of the Roumanian communion on the right bank of the Danube, and to the south of the Balkans.

Thirdly, to supervise the progress of existing schools in those regions, and to labour for their improvement, and to raise the tone of their teaching.

Fourthly, to provide the schools with books and material, and to form libraries.

At the same time, to promote the publication of works suited to the needs of Roumanians in those countries.

It is necessary that I should point out that the Society repudiates all ideas of proselytism or of the denationalisation of other races, in proof of which I may cite the 4th Article of the Statutes of the Association, which says:—

"The Macedo-Roumanian Society will strive to maintain a good understanding with the various races amongst whom the Roumans across the Danube and south of the Balkans dwell, in bringing them to understand, through the press, the advantages of a sincere fraternity, the perils of a reciprocal prosecution, and the fatal tendencies of denationalisation."

The administration of the Association is placed in the hands of a Council composed of thirty-five members, elected for a period of three years. This Council elects a Committee of three members, who are to meet at least once a-month. The funds of the Society are composed of an annual subscription by members of 40 fr. per annum, of subventions, legacies, and donations. You will thus see that it is a question of a serious endeavour to better the moral and intellectual condition of the Latin element in the south of the Danube, an element which, notwithstanding interested efforts to lessen its importance, is amply worthy of the attention bestowed upon it.

In an early letter I hope to return to this subject, and to show, on the authority of De Pouqueville, Colonel Leake, Ami Boué, E. Picot, and Frédéric Damé, that there are 800,000 Roumanians south of the Balkans, within the territory lying between Ochrida and the Morea, Cojanni and Durazzo.

No. 258.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1099.)

Constantinople, December 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 780 of yesterday's date, Sawas Pasha has communicated to me the Circular with reference to the surrender of Gussinjé which he informed me he was about to send to the Representatives of the Great Powers, but as he has also transmitted it to the Turkish Representatives abroad, your Lordship will no doubt have received a copy of it from Musurus Pasha. I do not, therefore, forward one to your Lordship. It is especially addressed to the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

Your Lordship will observe that Sawas Pasha states in it what he said to me, viz., that the Russian Government had admitted the sincerity of the Porte's intentions as regards the cession of Gussinjé. His Excellency has since informed me that he made this assertion on the authority of M. Onou, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who was acting upon instructions given to him by M. de Giers. He has since learnt that Prince Gortchacow has not taken the same view of the conduct of the Porte as M. de Giers, but accuses

it of having thrown difficulties in the way of the surrender of the district and of designedly delaying it.

It appears from Sawas Pasha's Circular that Moukhtar Pasha has sent for seven additional battalions, and not eight, as stated in my telegram.

I have &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 259.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1100.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 306 of the 12th instant, I have been constantly pressing the Porte to ratify the Convention with the Eastern Telegraph Company.

I have received innumerable promises that the formalities which are alone now required for the ratification shall be completed without loss of time, but these promises have been hitherto as constantly broken. The same thing has occurred with regard to other questions pending between this Embassy and the Porte, which must be submitted to the Council of Ministers for settlement.

I directed Sir A. Sandison to speak to-day very seriously on the subject to the Prime Minister, and to insist that they should be brought to a conclusion without further delay.

His Highness said that in consequence of every question, even of the smallest importance, having to pass through the Council of Ministers, public business was almost at a stand-still. He called for the Clerk of the Council, and showed Sir A. Sandison the register of the business to be transacted by it, which included no less than 3,500 matters which had to be examined by the Council, and to receive its "umzbata." The Financial question alone, his Highness said, had occupied twenty-three sittings. In consequence of this state of things, the Ministers had submitted to the Sultan a scheme for Ministerial responsibility, which, if accepted by His Majesty, as he had reason to hope that it would be, would enable each Minister to deal with affairs connected with his own Department, without referring to the Council except in special instances. He thus hoped to get over the present difficulties. In the meanwhile he agreed to a suggestion which, on my authority, Sir A. Sandison made to him, that a special Council should be assembled one day next week to take into exclusive consideration questions remaining to be settled with Her Majesty's Embassy, such as the Slave Trade Convention, the Soundi Firman, the Convention with the Eastern Telegraph Company, and one or two others which have been long pending. I trust, therefore, that I shall be able to bring all, or some of them, to a conclusion before long.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 260.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1102.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 13, 1879.

MIDHAT EFFENDI, the editor of the "Turdjimani Hakikat," and the author of the recent virulent and offensive articles against England and France, a specimen of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 962 of the 7th ultimo, has been appointed Director-General of the Imperial Printing Establishment and of the "Moniteur Officiel," with the rank of "Oula Seuf Ewel," whatever that may be.

As both the Prime Minister and Sawas Pasha had expressed to me great indignation at the appearance of these articles, and had assured me that they had sent for Midhat Effendi and had administered a very severe reprimand to him for publishing them, I thought it as well to ask for some explanation of them as to the promotion and reward apparently given to this individual.

They both seemed very much embarrassed as to what they should answer me. Said Pasha gave me the most categorical assurance that the "Turdjimani Hakikat" was not, as

generally reported, his newspaper, and that he had neither seen nor authorized the publication of the articles in question. He remarked that he was not Grand Vizier, but only President of the Council, and that many things were done which he could not prevent and over which he had no control. He insinuated that Midhat Effendi had protectors in the Palace, who may have "inspired" what he had written, and who had obtained for him the recompense to which I had referred, and for which he disclaimed all responsibility, expressing, at the same time, his very deep regret that Midhat Effendi should have obtained it.

Sawas Pasha gave a somewhat similar explanation.

I pointed out to him and to the Prime Minister that when I reported such things to your Lordship, Her Majesty's Government could not but entertain the most serious doubts as to the sincerity and good faith of the Porte, and a suspicion that there was a deliberate intention on its part to show hostility to England. I trusted that such was not the case; but the Porte must be responsible for the impression which its conduct could not fail to produce and for the consequences. I could not admit the excuse that the Prime Minister was not accountable for what persons in the Palace might do.

Said and Sawas Pashas begged me to represent the matter to your Lordship in the most favourable light, and to explain the great difficulties under which they laboured in consequence of influences in the Palace, which were frequently beyond their control. They assured me, at the same time, most solemnly that whatever those influences might be they would not alter or affect their policy, which was founded upon a cordial and intimate understanding and alliance with England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 261.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1104.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 13, 1879.

M. ZANCOFF, the Bulgarian Agent at the Porte, called upon me this morning to inform me that he had refused to "viser" the passports of a considerable number of Mussulmans, natives of Bulgaria, who wished to return to their homes. The Porte having, he said, sent him a list of these persons, who were Redifs released from military service, he had required that an assurance should be given him in writing that they possessed the means of providing for themselves in Bulgaria. The Porte had given this assurance, but not being satisfied with it he had directed his Dragoman to see them, and he had convinced himself that they had not a para amongst them, but were entirely destitute. Such being the case, he had notified to the Porte that he should not permit them to land at Varna until the arrears of their pay, which extended over many months, were paid to them. He asked me to see the men myself, so that I might be satisfied of the accuracy of what he had stated to me as to their condition. I would then, he thought, approve of the decision he had taken.

I told M. Zancoff that it was unnecessary for me, even if I had time to do so, to visit the persons he had described, as I had no doubt that they were in arrears of their pay for many months, like the rest of the Turkish troops. But it was, I thought, very hard upon these poor people that no means could be found to send them back to their homes, but that they should be left to perish from want at Constantinople. The Porte was ready to send them to Varna, and surely some way might be found to enable them to join their families.

I availed myself of the opportunity, when speaking on this subject with M. Zancoff, to express to him my deep regret at the manner in which the unfortunate Mussulman population was being treated in Bulgaria. It was, I said, entirely at variance with the wishes and intentions of the Powers when, by the Treaty of Berlin, they formed the Principality. It had been their object to put an end to bad and arbitrary government, and to secure liberty, justice, and protection of life and property to all classes, and not to give Bulgarian Christians the power and right to oppress and ill-treat their fellow-countrymen of a different faith. The reports which were reaching Europe of the sufferings of the unfortunate Mussulmans, who were being deprived of their property, who were denied civil rights, and who were driven from their homes, were, I said, causing a very unfavourable impression against the Principality.

I mentioned to him the instance of a Member of the British Parliament, belonging to

the Liberal party, who had told me that the sight of the wretched Mussulmans who crowded the steamer by which he descended the Danube on his way to Constantinople, and the stories he heard from them of the persecution and outrages they had suffered, which had driven them from their homes, had gone far towards changing his opinions on the Bulgarian question, and in destroying the sympathies he at one time felt for the Bulgarians.

M. Zancoff insisted that the incessant emigration of Mussulmans from Bulgaria, which he did not attempt to deny, arose chiefly from their unwillingness to serve in the Bulgarian army. He admitted that they were occasionally exposed to ill-treatment and outrages; but he maintained that if the Constitution, which he had principally contributed to frame for the Principality, were loyally and strictly put into execution, the Christian and Mussulman populations would live together on the best terms, and would be in the enjoyment of equal rights. He added that the Constitution was much too liberal for a certain Power, which had unfortunately succeeded in persuading the Prince, who was young and inexperienced, that it was so. Acting upon this very dangerous advice, supported, he was grieved to say, by other Powers, His Highness was now seeking to modify it.

I expressed my surprise at what he had told me as to his having been the principal author of the Constitution, which, I had always understood, had been framed by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff. I said that I very much regretted that party struggles and animosities had already placed the Prince in a very difficult position, had led to the dissolution of the first Chambers as soon as they were elected, and had introduced political dissensions, which should have been avoided in the interest of the future welfare of the Principality. Whatever advice other Powers may have given, I added, I felt quite certain that Her Majesty's Government had no wish whatever to see the liberties of the Bulgarians curtailed. On the contrary, their desire was that the populations of the Principality, without distinction of race, should enjoy perfect freedom under an orderly and honest Administration.

M. Zancoff replied that although the Bulgarian Constitution was attributed to Prince Doudoukoff-Korsakoff, it had really been framed by himself and one or two other Bulgarians, and had been accepted by the Prince for personal reasons. It had not, however, been approved by the Russian Government, which found it much too liberal, and had apparently succeeded, supported, he repeated, by other Powers, in which, however, he did not include England, in leading the Prince to believe that he could not govern with it. This might have very serious consequences, which he would deeply regret, as he believed His Highness to be animated by the best intentions, and to be loyally desirous of promoting the well-being of the Principality. He trusted that His Highness would see, in time, that the real object that Russia had in view was to prevent Bulgaria having free and Constitutional institutions, as she could never permit a Slav State with such institutions to be, as it were, conterminous with her. He observed that the Constitution was not intended to be what he termed "a political Constitution," and that the struggles of parties to which I had referred were not really political. The object those who framed the Constitution had in view, and the feelings of the Bulgarian population with regard to it, were purely "administrative," that was to say, that the administration of the Porte had been so bad, and had been the cause of so much suffering to the Bulgarians, that all they desired now was to have an honest and just Government and upright and capable functionaries. They troubled themselves little about politics, and took no concern in the struggles of their representatives for place. The Prince had been badly advised in the course he had pursued in dissolving the Chambers and in forming a Ministry without consulting them, which did not represent the majority. It was, M. Zancoff thought, a most unfortunate thing that the Prince had been led to take this false step at the beginning of his reign.

M. Zancoff spoke very despondingly of the state of affairs generally in the Principality. But it must be remembered that after having been offered the place of Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council (as he told me), he has now been passed over in the formation of the new Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 261 A.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1110.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 16, 1879.*

I THINK it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the inclosed article from the "Commercial Advertiser," (the "Levant Herald" under another name), which may represent the opinions of the British commercial community in Constantinople, or a part of it, although the editor of this newspaper has always shown much hostility to Her Majesty's Embassy, and has generally misrepresented its action and its policy. The complaints contained in this article as to the manner in which British commercial interests are treated by the Porte, and as to the difficulties experienced in obtaining the settlement of British claims, are, I am sorry to say, but too well founded. That those interests and claims "do not receive from the British authorities anything like as efficacious a support as those of other countries receive from their authorities," is, I may say with some confidence, entirely at variance with the truth. The contrast drawn between the alleged successful action of the French Embassy in pressing the claims of French subjects, and the neglect attributed to Her Majesty's Embassy in supporting those of British subjects, is equally contrary to fact. I can only say that my French colleague, and indeed my other colleagues, are constantly complaining to me of the difficulty they experience in obtaining the settlement of the numerous questions pending between them and the Porte in connection with the claims of their "nationaux." I may mention that, when I had almost contrived to arrange one British claim, that of Stambouli, M. Fournier actually sent for the claimant to cross-question him, in order to ascertain how I had managed to bring it to a settlement. It is true that the French Embassy is in the habit of taking up, and pressing with all its influence, demands for concessions made by Frenchmen, and that it has been in many cases successful, especially when Hairedin Pasha was Grand Vizier. But it would, I have reason to believe, be contrary to the wish and policy of Her Majesty's Government that the influence of Her Majesty's Embassy should be used for such purposes. I venture to express my conviction that this determination on their part is in every respect a wise and honourable one. When we see the influence of the French Embassy used, even with the Sultan himself personally, to procure such concessions as those given to M. de Tocqueville, M. Michel, M. Collas, and many others that I could mention, I confess that it appears to me a much more creditable thing, and much more conducive to the good reputation of the British Embassy, that it should abstain from such proceedings. I have always been ready to give my unofficial support to British subjects, of whose respectability I was assured, in placing before the proper authorities any schemes they might wish to submit to the Turkish Government for its acceptance, and I have endeavoured to obtain for those schemes a full and impartial consideration. But I have invariably refused to use the influence of the Embassy in obtaining concessions, or to countenance the means by which they are usually obtained. This has, no doubt, caused irritation and disappointment to persons who consider that they are entitled to receive from the Embassy direct and effective support in such matters, and who contrast our policy with that of the French Embassy.

The suggestion of the writer of the inclosed article that all claims of British subjects of a commercial character should go, in the first instance, to the Consulate, and should be dealt with at the Porte by Dragomans specially attached to the Consulate, such, he states, being the practice with regard to French commercial claims, may be worthy of consideration. But it must be remembered that our dragomanic establishment is not on the same scale as that of the French, and that we have no Dragomans who can be charged exclusively with Consular business. Practically, however, most commercial cases and claims either go directly to Her Majesty's Consul-General, or are referred to him by the Embassy for his opinion. If his report shows that they are well founded, and that representations should be addressed with regard to them to the Porte, such representations are immediately made, and, if without result, are repeated with all the energy that the Embassy can command.

I do not know to what cases of neglected British claims and British commercial interests the article particularly refers. I inclose a list of the notes which have been addressed by the Embassy to the Porte, and to which no satisfactory replies have been received.

The matters to which they refer are, I may say, being almost daily pressed upon the Porte. I have made the strongest possible representations on the subject. I have exhausted my diplomatic vocabulary, and almost my patience, in insisting upon their settlement. I am almost at a loss to know what more to do.

Some of these cases are, undoubtedly, very bad, and persons who have just claims upon the Turkish Government have, in many instances, been very unjustly and cruelly treated. I can but suggest, as I have done before, that the only way to obtain redress for them would be by paying their full demands out of the surplus revenue of Cyprus, which we are engaged to hand over to the Porte. I see no other means of forcing the Turkish Government to satisfy them, when it may, perhaps, not have the inclination, and certainly, under present circumstances, has not the money, to do so.

I can, with the most perfect confidence, say that the commercial interests of the British community have never to my knowledge been neglected by this Embassy as alleged, for any reasons whatever, political or other. They have always been considered, by me, at any rate, of primary importance, and I am really unaware of any fact which may afford grounds for the complaints of British subjects referred to in the inclosed article. That there has been great delay in settling many of their just claims may partly be attributed to the exceptional circumstances of the last three years, a devastating war, general anarchy in the Administration, and absolute penury in the Treasury.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 261 A.

Extract from the "Commercial Advertiser" of December 15, 1879.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN TURKEY.—Imperial interests are not the subject of this article. That our diplomatic mechanism does the work expected of it, and that it satisfies accordingly those who are responsible to the country for the results of the manipulation of the policy they dictate, is a proposition which lies beyond the scope of the remarks we have now to make. The matter which occupies our attention at this moment is of an administrative rather than political character, and has reference to a subject of very general complaint, viz., that British commercial interests in Turkey do not receive from the British authorities anything like as efficacious support as those of other countries receive from their authorities.

There seems to exist some obscure and insuperable difficulty in setting in action that influence which the Government of Great Britain must be able to exercise upon the Porte in order to bring about the satisfaction of the legitimate claims of British subjects in respect of their commercial enterprises. The subjects of other countries do not experience the same difficulty. Those of France, especially, can at all times call into action strong and efficacious support in behalf of any legitimate commercial claim. Thus, a French claim pushes its way through the phalanx of bureaucratic obstacles to a settlement more or less prompt; while the English claim languishes for years and years; and often enough the claimants languish too, wasting a broken life in helpless struggle for their rights.

In theory the British Embassy is not without influence; nor, in theory, is the British Government indifferent to British commercial interests. But the Englishman with a claim upon the Porte, however just, cannot practically reach the benefits which, according to these theories, should be within the certain range of his power of attainment. There is obviously a defect somewhere in our system. The organization and co-ordination of the elements which constitute the representative instrument of the British Government in Turkey is manifestly wanting in some important link. This we take to be proved by the fact that one Ambassador is spoken of as an energetic supporter of commercial interests, while another is said to be the reverse. One Ambassador will support claims; another, impressed with the purely diplomatic character of his mission, treats them as objects of inferior importance; another finds the friction with the authorities, which the support of claims produces, an inconvenient complication of diplomatic relations which he would wish to keep as smooth as possible. Thus the commercial interests of the British colony, and all those which its members represent, are at the mercy of the views which may guide the conduct of the Ambassador for the time being.

This ought not to be. It is bad for the colony, and bad for the Ambassador. Bad for the colony, because of the miserable uncertainty in which its members are placed; bad for the Ambassador, because if he adopts the line of supporting claims, the Porte looks upon him as personally inimical, while, if he neglects to support them, he becomes the object of bitter ill-feeling, and every tongue and every pen in the colony are turned, and with good reason, against him. The truth is that the Ambassador should have no option in the matter, and that the working of British influence in commercial matters should be

reduced to a system of routine as it is with the French. The French representative establishment is, in form, like our own. There is an Ambassador, a Consul-General, a Consular Court, and Judge. But there is a most important difference in their manner of working. The French Consular Court, besides being what its parallel English is—a mere Law Court for the settlement of legal questions between its own subjects—performs also another duty. It is the instrument by means of which French claims against the Porte or its subjects are systematically followed up.

All French claims, great or small, of a commercial character, go to the Consulate and its judicial authorities, where they are examined, and if, on examination, they prove to be founded upon right, they are communicated to the Ambassador, and pursued through the Consular Dragomans, who, in the case of the French, have equal standing in the dragomanic hierarchy with the political Dragomans. If the representations of these agents do not bring about a settlement, the Consulate addresses the Ambassador, and it is part of his business, the case being recommended by the Consulate, to give the claim his energetic support, and insist on its satisfaction. No practical inconvenience results from this, because the Ambassador, having no option, has simply to do his duty, the accomplishment of which does not disturb the current of his diplomatic dealings, because the Porte knows that he has no choice in the matter.

British claimants have no such system to trust to. They may address the Ambassador direct, or they may apply to him through the Consulate. But the claim which goes up to the Embassy, with the recommendation of the Consul-General and Judge, does not necessarily enjoy a position of greater advantage than one which is sent direct. The Ambassador may suit his own convenience regarding either, and may follow them up or leave them alone according to the bent of his humour. But, inasmuch as there is no system or steady sequence in the action of the Embassy with regard to claims, it happens that, even in cases where the Ambassador does take them up with a certain amount of intention, the Porte, having no belief in its persistence, takes little heed; so that cases have been known in which notes addressed by the British Embassy to the Porte, although couched in energetic language, have remained unanswered for long months; and, as no evil consequences ensued, the Porte has acquired the undesirable habit of regarding such representations as mere perfunctory utterances devoid of real significance. The Dragomans, too, of the British Embassy, whom the traditions of our service place on a higher social pedestal than that occupied by Consular Dragomans, have grown gradually into the persuasion that commercial business is of very secondary importance, and unless it includes the elements of a "diplomatic success," it does not matter, in their view, how long an abuse may be perpetuated, or a crying wrong remain unredressed.

In our view it would tend most materially to the acclimatization of justice in this country if the British Embassy were, as a matter of principle, to insist, with the most rigid inflexibility, on justice being done promptly in all cases where British interests were concerned, setting a stern face against evasion and procrastination. But to do this thoroughly and consistently a system must be introduced. The Porte must be made to understand that the Consulate is the regular channel through which representations on commercial questions are to come, and that, if these representations are not duly heeded, they will be backed by all the influence of the Embassy, brought to bear in the sternest and most decided manner. It is no kindness to the Porte to allow it to acquire the habit of ignoring its responsibilities. It only brings it into disrepute, and piles up ill-feeling against it.

If the feeling of the colony were taken on the subject of the way in which its commercial interests are at present protected, it would be one of most emphatic discontent, expressed in a manner disparaging to the Embassy. But while we do not believe that the British colony is extravagant in its demands in the matter, we do not either think that the Ambassador is personally as much to blame as is commonly supposed; and we have little doubt that, if a change of system, such as we suggest, were introduced, our countrymen would be fully satisfied with the relief of their present grievance which it would afford. At the same time, we are persuaded that one of the main reasons why the British colony is less compact, less capable of common effort in any useful direction, and less imbued with a sense of unity than many others of the foreign colonies in Constantinople, is because it lacks all sense of strength for want of that systematic support to which it is legitimately entitled, and of which it is deprived through the defective organization of its own authorities.

Inclosure 2 in No. 261 A.

Further List of Notes to Porte remaining unanswered (July 31 to December 16, 1879).

SINCE drawing up the list of notes unanswered by the Porte inclosed in Sir H. Layard's No. 780 of the 1st September last, answers have been received to Nos. 36, 117, 133, 134, 166, 170, 177, and 184. The answers to Nos. 117, 133, and 134 were refusals.

Since the 1st August last the following additional notes on commercial matters and claims and complaints of British subjects have been addressed to the Porte, and still remain unanswered:—

No.	Date.	Subject.
194	August 2 ..	Harmandjik mines case.
270	October 6 ..	
196	August 4 ..	Hanson "Azizieh" claim.
198	August 4 ..	Dingwall estate case.
210	August 12 ..	Perdicari v. Cangellari.
257	September 27 ..	
214	August 12 ..	Admission of foreigners to Smyrna Municipality.
232	August 27 ..	Sanitary fees question.
253	September 10 ..	
233	August 27 ..	Unanswered notes.
237	August 30 ..	Varna Railway.
238	August 31 ..	Collas Lighthouse Concession.
324	December 11 ..	
240	September 1 ..	Kadikeui case.
291	November 1 ..	
243	September 4 ..	Additional steamer on Tigris.
276	October 11 ..	Legal Fees Tariff.
287	October 25 ..	Closing of money-changers' shops.
288	October 27 ..	Kustendje Railway case.
311	November 29 ..	
294	November 6 ..	"R. Anning" case.
309	November 23 ..	Dr. Koelle's papers.
326	December 12 ..	
322	December 10 ..	Schlepp, No. 7, case.

December 16, 1879.

No. 261 B.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1112.)
Constantinople, December 16, 1879.

My Lord,

AS the "Maritza," the official journal published at Philippopoli, still continues to assert that the Sultan conferred the Order of the Osmanieh of the First Class upon Aleko Pasha, and that this is a proof that His Majesty entirely approves of his Excellency's proceedings, I have again asked the Prime Minister and Sawas Pasha whether the statement is true. They have repeated to me that they have no information whatever on the subject, and that they cannot believe that His Majesty would have given this high distinction to Aleko Pasha without communicating his intention to them. However, although the "Turquie" and the other Constantinople newspapers announced that Aleko Pasha had received the Order, no contradiction of the statement which appeared to be official has been published. This leads me to suspect that there must be something behind the scenes with which I am not acquainted, especially as Dr. Vulcovitch, who accompanied Aleko Pasha, and who, according to Mr. Michell, is a notorious Russo-Bulgarian intriguer, was honoured by the Sultan with a decoration.

I have pointed out to Sawas Pasha that the Porte can hardly complain of the ill-treatment to which the Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia are exposed if the Governor-General, whose duty it is to protect them and to insure to them justice and redress, and who thus flagrantly neglects it, receives the highest mark of His Majesty's approval. Moreover, the suspicion naturally arises that some occult influence is exercised by Russia to induce the Porte to connive at proceedings on the part of Aleko Pasha in direct

violation of the Treaty of Berlin as regards the authority of the Sultan in the province, and the intentions of the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 262.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1113.)
Constantinople, December 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a communication addressed by the Greek Representatives to their Turkish colleagues, complaining of the delay in bringing these discussions to a conclusion, and of the numerous adjournments of the meeting of the Conference, and stating that if at the next meeting, the day for which is not yet fixed, the Turkish Representatives are not prepared to offer a definite line of frontier, which can be examined and discussed, and a further adjournment is asked for, they will be under the necessity of informing their Government that they have arrived at the conviction that all further negotiations are useless, and will ask for its instructions.

The Greek Representatives have, at the same time, submitted a new line to their colleagues, somewhat to the south of that previously proposed by them in the Memorandum of which I also inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 262.

M. Coundouriotis to Sawas Pasha.

Péra, le $\frac{3}{15}$ Décembre, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

PAR la lettre du $\frac{1}{13}$ Décembre courant votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de me communiquer que par suite de certains motifs personels elle se voyait dans la nécessité de remettre à huitaine la réunion qui devait avoir lieu le même jour.

Ayant porté cette lettre à la connaissance de mes honorables collègues, je m'empresse de vous soumettre les considérations qu'elle nous a suggérées.

Notre dernière séance a eu lieu le $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre. Depuis lors il y a eu trois ajournements.

En effet, dans la susdite séance il a été convenu que nous nous réunirions le 11. Votre Excellence nous a fait savoir que ses honorables collègues n'étant pas prêts, un ajournement se rendait nécessaire, sans indiquer toutefois la date de cet ajournement.

Ce n'est que sur mes instances personnelles que vous avez bien voulu me donner l'assurance que nous serions convoqués pour le 29. Mais la veille de ce jour nous avons été prévenus qu'un second ajournement était désiré. Enfin, le jour même où ce second ajournement expirait et où la séance devait avoir lieu, votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'annoncer un troisième ajournement de huit jours.

Quelque disposés que nous soyons à nous prêter aux convenances de MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, votre Excellence comprend qu'il ne nous est pas permis d'attendre plus longtemps.

Désirant toutefois donner encore une preuve de notre désir de nous conformer scrupuleusement aux indications du Protocole et accomplir notre mission jusqu'au bout, nous avons l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence, ci-joint, un Mémoire avec un annexe que nous nous proposions de communiquer à nos honorables collègues à la première séance. Ce document contient le tracé et la justification de la ligne que nous avons l'honneur de soumettre comme notre dernière proposition.

En priant votre Excellence de porter à la connaissance de ses honorable collègues la présente communication, nous sommes forcés de les prévenir que dans le cas où un nouvel ajournement serait demandé, comme dans le cas où une autre séance aurait lieu sans que, de leur part, il y ait une proposition concrète et formelle de la ligne par laquelle la Sublime Porte se propose de réaliser la rectification de frontières dont elle

a admis le principe, nous serons dans la pénible nécessité de soumettre au Gouvernement Royal que, par suite des procédés qui ont eu lieu jusqu'à ce jour, nous avons acquis la conviction que tout négociations ultérieures se rend inutile et que nous demandons ses ordres en conséquence.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 262.

Memorandum.

DANS le Mémoire que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans nous ont fait l'honneur de nous communiquer pendant la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, ils se sont proposé d'indiquer d'abord quelle serait, selon leur manière de voir, la véritable ligne septentrionale des deux vallées et quels sont les points dans lesquels nous nous sommes écartés de cette ligne. Ils ont bien voulu indiquer ensuite quelle serait la ligne à tracer sur les hauteurs méridionales qui seules peuvent et doivent être adoptées. Ils ont enfin ajouté comme conclusion de leur Mémoire qu'en nous conviant à entrer dans l'examen de cette ligne ils déclarent formellement qu'ils ne les présentent pas comme constituant une proposition de leur part, mais comme un simple aperçu de la ligne qui doit être considérée comme étant seule de Berlin d'après l'interprétation donnée par la Grèce aux indications du Protocole. Et pour rendre encore plus claire leur pensée ils déclarent en outre que cette ligne présentait des inconvénients analogues à ceux qu'ils ont signalés au sujet de la ligne du thalweg, il est bien entendu que cette ligne est à discuter, et que chacune des deux parties est libre de la critiquer et d'y introduire les modifications qu'un examen attentif et contradictoire pourra suggérer.

La pensée qui ressort de ces citations est en effet d'une évidence frappante.

Ayant successivement écarté la ligne septentrionale et la ligne du thalweg et ayant indiqué comme simple aperçu à discuter une ligne méridionale, MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans s'empressent d'ajouter que même cette ligne présente des inconvénients analogues à ceux de la ligne du thalweg et par conséquent, en considérant cette délimitation comme sujette à discussion et à des modifications, il est évident qu'ils se réservent de la faire descendre encore plus bas et de la réduire à peu près à la ligne qui a été proposée à Preveza et qui a été déclarée inadmissible.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes regrettent de ne pas pouvoir suivre leurs honorables collègues sur ce terrain.

Ils regrettent encore plus de constater la divergence de vues qui s'est manifestée pendant les négociations actuelles. La discussion ayant tourné dans un cercle se trouve aujourd'hui ramenée au même point où les négociations antérieures ont dû nécessairement échouer.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes pourraient se borner à ces seules considérations.

Mais désirant écarter le soupçon qu'ils évitent de discuter les lignes indiquées par leurs honorables collègues, ils se permettront de faire une seule observation sur ces lignes.

Dans le tracé de la ligne septentrionale MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont compris les affluents secondaires du Pénée, mais par une contradiction inexplicable ils ont laissé en dehors de la ligne l'affluent principal du même fleuve, le Xiragis (Sarantaporos), et par conséquent le Mont Olympe qui est la limite naturelle de la vallée (voir document annexé), tandis que dans la ligne meredionale ils vont au sud du Lac Karla au lieu de tracer la ligne au nord de ce lac et de celui de Nessonis. De même, la ligne qui devrait commencer à Scalafteris et Kissavo, va au-dessus de Karla et au lieu de passer au nord de l'éventail qui est formé par les nombreux affluents du Pénée, au sud de ce fleuve, et dont les extrémités sont l'Enipéus et le Blouris. Elle se rapproche de la frontière actuelle. Quant au Kalamas, on ne sait pas pourquoi on est descendu au sud des sources de ce fleuve, et l'on comprend encore moins pourquoi l'on a exclu le Metzovitico et le Tagoritiko qui forment la rivière d'Arta. Une dernière conséquence de ce système a été l'exclusion du Metzovo qui, d'après les principes de toute délimitation, doit être compris et dans la ligne septentrionale et dans celle du thalweg, et dans la ligne méridionale (voyez le document annexé à notre précédent Mémoire), et l'exclusion aussi de la source principale du Pénée.

Il est évident donc qu'en traçant ces deux lignes on a tantôt appliqué et tantôt violé le principe qu'on a eu l'air d'adopter.

Nous devions constater ce procédé contradictoire dans le tracé des deux lignes

parce qu'il révèle toujours plus l'intention de réduire la ligne du Protocole à celle de Preveza, et nous n'avons pas besoin de reproduire les arguments qui rendent cette ligne inacceptable. Au surplus elle n'ajouterait à la Grèce que quelques rochers et quelques villages, ce qui n'était certainement pas dans l'intention des Plénipotentiaires des grandes Puissances, lorsqu'ils ont indiqué avec tant de sagesse la nécessité d'une rectification qui, en extirpant les germes des difficultés actuelles, serait par cela même le gage d'un avenir pacifique pour les deux pays.

C'est en nous inspirant uniquement de cette pensée de paix et de justice que nous avons consciencieusement recherché quelle est la ligne qui répond le mieux aux indications du Protocole et aux intentions de l'Europe.

En proposant cette ligne nous avons dit à plusieurs reprises que notre travail n'était ni complet ni définitif, et nous avons invité nos honorables collègues à le discuter avec nous dans l'espoir de parvenir à une entente directe et définitive.

Nous leur adressons encore une fois cette invitation. Et pour leur donner une nouvelle preuve de nos dispositions conciliantes nous reproduisons notre ligne modifiée dans les points où elle a paru s'écarter des indications précises du Protocole. Cet écart, d'ailleurs, est d'une importance minime pour la Turquie; il garantirait beaucoup mieux la sécurité des possessions du Royaume Hellénique et contribuerait grandement à l'établissement des rapports de bon voisinage entre les deux Etats limitrophes, conformément au désir des Grandes Puissances.

La ligne que nous avons l'honneur de proposer commencerait au Cap Stylot, dans la Mer Ionienne, limite offerte par la chaîne des montagnes du nord-est, où se fait le partage des eaux. Elle continuerait par le village Verva, et ensuite par la crête des Montagnes Pharmacovouni et Stougara elle parviendrait au village Lougos, point central du bassin de réception de Lougovitza, un des principaux affluents du Kalamas. De là elle remonterait à la source primitive du Kalamas, au sud de la plus haute cime des Monts Nemetza à l'endroit appelé Britzicopoulo, au nord de Lakhanocastro. Elle s'élèverait ensuite aux sources de l'Arachtos entre Frangiades et Négiades, où se fait aussi le partage des eaux, et de là elle continuerait jusqu'à Krania, qui est le point le plus avancé du secteur de Metzovo. A partir de ce point la ligne continuerait telle quelle a été proposée, en suivant toujours la ligne de partage des eaux jusqu'à un point à déterminer entre Dion et Spitzi.

Nous avons la confiance que cette ligne tracée sur la limite septentrionale des deux vallées correspond de la manière la plus rigoureuse aux indications du Protocole, et qu'elle offre en même temps une frontière garantissant la sécurité réciproque des deux Etats. Cette sécurité sera le fondement de leurs rapports de bon voisinage et elle assurera par-là l'avenir pacifique et prospère des deux pays.

Annex to Memorandum.

L'histoire des guerres en tout temps a démontré qu'il y a différents points dans une région donnée où les armées ont dû se rencontrer comme dans un camp naturel, formé par la configuration et les formes caractéristiques du sol. L'Archiduc Charles a formulé ce fait historique, en disant que les opérations militaires dépendent de la configuration du sol, et la géographie stratégique démontre qu'il faut examiner les accidents naturels et les accidents artificiels.

Examinons les deux espèces d'accidents.

(A.)—*Accidents Naturels.*

La structure ou le relief du terrain au nord du Pénéus, depuis Zarkos jusqu'à ses embouchures, se décompose en une dépression de Sarandaporos et en protubérances du Mont Olympe.

Le Sarondaporos est une vallée subalterne qui, convergeant vers les points très-rapprochés de l'intérieur de la vallée primaire du Pénéus, forme en même temps le chemin le plus direct de la crête à la plaine.

On peut par un mouvement rapide et d'un seul coup rendre inutile la défense de l'embouchure du Pénéus, en attaquant le flanc de l'ennemi sans exposer ses propres communications.

Les sentiers dans le Mont Olympe sont les seules voies de passage entre le versant oriental et le versant occidental; aussi ont-ils une valeur stratégique incontestable qui ne sera pas méconnue, quand on voudra fixer scientifiquement les points terminus de la nouvelle frontière vers la Mer Egée.

Nous n'entrerons pas dans l'examen de la valeur militaire absolue de ce point, quoique ce soit un élément fort précieux pour en déterminer l'importance. Nous nous bornons seulement à dire que les fonctions stratégiques des deux accidents caractéristiques susmentionnés sont—

1. Que le maître du Mont Olympe, qui forme la première ligne de défense de la Péninsule Hellénique, est le maître de l'embouchure du Pénéus qui forme la seconde ligne.

2. Le maître du Sarandaporos est le maître de la même embouchure, parce que les dimensions verticales et horizontales, la roideur et la déclivité des pentes du Mont Olympe, ainsi que la direction, l'inclinaison, et la longueur exiguë rendent ce point plus utile à l'invasion qu'à la défense, et ceci pour trois raisons :

1. Parce que l'agresseur n'est pas obligé de parcourir un long chemin et d'allonger ses colonnes, c'est-à-dire il ne se trouve pas dans la nécessité de les faire marcher en échelons à des distances considérables.

2. Parce que la défense ne peut avoir des ressources multiples et successives.

3. Parce que la défense ne peut pas inquiéter les communications de l'ennemi.

Tout ceci rend incontestable la vérité ci-dessus et ne peut pas donner lieu à des discussions.

(B.)—*Accidents Artificiels.*

Dans le pays qui environne Elasson on trouve les forts suivants :—

Dion, Platamona, Kastri Phila ou Lycostomon, Lapathorite et trois autres forteresses au Tempé, Casteo, Kalek-Tépé (Conos), Gonocondylon, Paleo-Kastro (près Nezeros), Tour d'Endicton (Detnata), Lossonos Paleo-Kastro (près Vuvala), Selos (la citadelle) Poste, fortifiée par Ali Pacha Duklista, Vigla (de Vulestana), &c.

Le nombre de ces lieux fortifiés fait voir que jamais une ligne conventionnelle n'a pu être considérée comme suffisante, quoiqu'on ait voulu renforcer artificiellement en d'autres temps ces lignes par rapport aux lignes stratégiques. Mais tous ces forts des montagnes, destinés à intercepter le passage dans les vallées, ont généralement une valeur stratégique d'un caractère plutôt défensif qu'offensif, parce que leur effet est limité à la vallée seule où ils sont construits.

Examinons maintenant le pays, qui est borné par l'Haliacmon jusqu'à Vervas.

Ce pays forme un triangle dont le sommet est formé par Castoria et un des côtés par la Vallée de Vistritza ou Castoria, Korytza, Lapsista, Siatista. L'autre angle est formé par Vounassa, où le grand coude qui est après la jonction de Venetico et de Vistritza.

La base de ce triangle est formé par l'Haliacmon jusqu'à Verria, d'où part la route qui, traversant plus bas le point méridional du Lac Yanitza, se rencontre avec le chemin de fer de Salonique. C'est de ce point que commence l'autre côté du triangle par Yanitza, Vodena, Ostrovo, Castoria, ou plus au sud Niaousta-Kaïlar.

Second triangle, sommet Salonique, Servia, Dion, ou Malathria.

Dans ces deux triangles il y a plusieurs centres importants de richesses d'industrie et de commerce, et de tout ce qui constitue la vitalité d'un Etat ; il y a des points de croisement de différents chemins qui sont toujours très-intéressants comme centres des grandes communications du pays. Ces communications forment un même système entre elles et elles se prêtent un appui réciproque.

L'importance de Salonique avec son chemin de fer est assez connue ; cette ville peut servir comme point de départ de trois lignes d'opérations terrestres, qui aboutissent à la route parallèle de Velvendos à Caterina et les lignes d'approvisionnement avec toutes les échelles du rivage ; et comme appui d'aile certainement elle sera toujours une grande menace pour l'Etat de Grèce, qui ne disposera que de forces moins considérables.

Velvendos et surtout Servia peut servir comme point de départ de toutes les forces militaires, qui peuvent se loger dans le premier triangle et se réunir à Kozani en parcourant un chemin très-court.

Dans ce premier triangle il y a Kozani, qui est une position intérieure concentrique, d'où elles pourront accourir promptement sur un point quelconque, et les troupes Turques peuvent se mouvoir suivant les divers rayons avec l'avantage du temps et de l'espace.

La ligne fluviale sur l'angle du grand coude de Boumassa présente un grand saillant, qui est une position qui flanque stratégiquement les deux sections latérales en distance proportionnelle à la grandeur de la saillie, et où le grand coude forme l'angle du triangle.

1. Servia-Castoria, plus au nord de Néochori, qui conduit à Vlacholivado.

Servia, défilé de Servia, col Portes, de là la route se bifurque en deux directions, dont l'une conduit au nord de Vigla à Néochori Vlacholivado, et l'autre au sud de Vigla (949,749) à Sarandaporos.

Servia-Col Demir-Capou Metaxa Sarandaporos.

2. Caterina-Makrya Rachi, Velvendos, petit triangle intérieur dans lequel peuvent se masser les forces militaires du second triangle pour attaquer Pétra et de là Hagios-Dimitrios.

Les routes normales au fond convergent vers le point important de l'intérieur Hagios Dimitri et le Vlacholivado, Kockinoplos, et Selo formeront la première ligne de défense, ayant devant elle comme première ligne de résistance le col qui est en avant de Servia et le défilé de Pétra ; cette ligne a le défaut d'être trop restreinte et la défense ne doit pas se laisser trop resserrer par l'assaillant. On ne peut ni loger ni développer beaucoup de forces et, en cas de besoin, se jeter de côté, pour rejoindre la base principale du Pénéus, menacée par une manœuvre tournante qui force la défense, tandis que la Turquie aura une double ligne d'opérations vers un même objectif et même une ligne convergente, et en même temps avec d'autres forces elle menacera du versant oriental de l'Olympe, le Pénée même, c'est-à-dire la véritable base de la défense, qui est si rapprochée.

No. 263.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1115.) *Constantinople, December* 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram I have received from Mr. Gould, relating to the position of the Mussulman population in Servia, the refusal of the Servian Government to allow the Turkish Commissioner to proceed to Nisch, and the necessity for the conclusion of a Consular Convention between Turkey and Servia. I also inclose copy of my reply to Mr. Gould.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 263.

Mr. Gould to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, December* 14, 1879.

SERVIAN Government will shortly submit to the Legislature a scheme for commuting the claims of Turkish landowners for less than half the value of their properties. Turkish Commissioner, under Article XXXIX of the Treaty, has reached Belgrade, but been refused permission to come on here.

Prompt conclusion of a Consular Convention urgently needed in the interests of the Porte.

However, it has now transpired that the Servian Government, yielding to the advice of their Minister at Constantinople, as they allege, have all along claimed for their subjects in Turkey the benefit of the Capitulations, while refusing to grant it to Ottoman subjects in Servia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 263.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 16, 1879.

I HAVE communicated confidentially substance of your telegram of yesterday to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. He is very grateful to you for the interest you take in the Mussulman population. He says that he will insist upon Turkish Commissioner going to Nisch, and if Servian Government refuse permission he will appeal to the Powers. He says further that he is willing to conclude Consular Convention with Servia, but that the Porte cannot agree to give Servians benefit of Capitulations when same privilege is

refused to Turkish subjects in Servia, and justifies this decision by the Article in the Treaty of Berlin referring to treatment of Servians in Turkey.

No. 264.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1116.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1879.

SAWAS PASHA has given me a copy, which I inclose, of the Proclamation addressed by Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha to the inhabitants of Gussinjé, calling upon them to obey the orders of their Sovereign to surrender the district to Montenegro. His Excellency assures me, in the most categorical manner, that it is the earnest desire of the Sultan and the Porte that the cession should be brought about without delay and without bloodshed, and that Moukhtar Pasha is doing his utmost to effect it. With this object he has so disposed his troops that all communication has been cut off between Gussinjé and the neighbouring Albanian districts. Its inhabitants can therefore no longer hope for assistance from without.

If Moukhtar Pasha has not already used force it is because he entertains very serious doubts as to the expediency of employing his troops against their co-religionists, whom they cannot but regard as patriots defending their homes and their faith, and offering a lawful and justifiable resistance against being transferred without their consent to a Christian and foreign rule. He is, therefore, making use of the mediation of influential Albanian Chiefs whom he has sent into the district to induce its inhabitants to yield to the decision of the Congress of Berlin without rendering force and the effusion of blood necessary.

He informs the Porte that he is sanguine of success.

Sawas Pasha states that M. Radowitz has told him that if the Prince of Montenegro is compelled to take possession of the district by force, "he will slay every Mussulman in it."

If such be the intention of the Prince, his Excellency observed, it is of the utmost importance that a collision should be avoided, as, if the threat were carried out, a spirit of revenge would be provoked on the part of the Albanians which would infallibly lead to the most serious consequences, and again give rise to European complications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Appeal to Inhabitants of Gussinjé to Cede District.

AUX termes du Traité de Berlin Goussinjé et Plava doivent être réunis au Monténégro.

Les autorités Impériales ont fait jusqu'à présent ce qui était nécessaire pour amener l'évacuation de ces districts. Malheureusement une partie des habitants semble être d'accord pour ne pas livrer Goussinjé et Plava et organise une résistance dans ce but.

Tout le monde reconnaît que l'abandon de Goussinjé et de Plava est une obligeance imposée par le Traité au Gouvernement Impérial. La résistance projetée des habitants n'aura d'autre résultat que de provoquer une effusion de sang inutile et d'attirer sur eux des malheurs. Cette attitude de la population est complétement désapprouvée par le Gouvernement Impérial; l'effusion du sang pour une affaire sans issue est d'ailleurs condamné par la loi sacrée de Chéri et la raison.

Nous ne doutons pas que ceux qui ont du bon sens n'apprécient la nécessité qui découle du Traité pour le Gouvernement Impérial dans cette question, et les exigences de la situation. Nous comptons sur votre patriotisme et votre dévouement pour vous voir abandonner un principe dont les inconvénients sont évidents, et obéir aux ordres des autorités Impériales.

Au nom de la Sublime Porte je vous déclare, à vous tous, que ceux qui contreviendraient à ces recommendations assumeraient une responsabilité morale et matérielle.

No. 265.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1117.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1104 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have received from the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, relative to the return of Mussulman refugees to Bulgaria. M. Zancoff incloses copies of two notes he has received from the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 265.

M. Zancoff to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Octobre*, 1879.

Excellence,

EN réponse à la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser à la date du 10 Décembre, par rapport aux formalités exigées pour le débarquement des réfugiés Musulmans en Bulgarie, j'ai l'honneur de déclarer que ma lettre du $\frac{18}{30}$ Novembre n'avait pour but qu'un appel aux sentiments d'humanité dont votre Excellence est animée. En effet, tout homme ne pourrait être que profondément touché à la vue de ces êtres déplorables qui risqueraient un trajet de mer en pareille saison, sans qu'on eût pu leur préparer un asile à leur arrivée.

C'est dans ce but que le Gouvernement Bulgare avait adressé à la Sublime Porte la demande que tout repatriement par groupe des réfugiés Musulmans fût précédé d'une entente préalable entre les deux Gouvernements. Le Gouvernement Ottoman devait communiquer chaque fois au Gouvernement Bulgare une liste des réfugiés qui veulent retourner en Bulgarie, indiquant leurs noms, les lieux d'où ils sont originaires, s'ils sont pourvus de moyens pour un temps quelconque, &c. Le Gouvernement de la Principauté, après l'examen de cette liste et les préparatifs faits pour l'installation, autoriserait son Agence à Constantinople à délivrer un permis de passage au groupe respectif des réfugiés. La Sublime Porte ne pouvait qu'adhérer à cette juste demande, ce qui ressort de ses notes dont j'ai l'honneur d'annexer les copies à la présente. A cet accord se rapporte l'introduction de ma lettre du $\frac{16}{28}$ Novembre: "D'après ce qui a été convenu entre le Gouvernement Bulgare et le Gouvernement Ottoman," &c.

En conséquence de ce que j'ai eu l'honneur d'exposer par la présente, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner suite à ma lettre du $\frac{16}{28}$ Novembre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) C. D. ZANCOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 265.

Sawas Pasha to M. Zancoff.

Sublime Porte, le 10 *Novembre*, 1870.

M. l'Agent,

UN certain nombre d'émigrés de Tirnovo, de Slevi, de Plevna, de Lostcha, et d'autres localités de la Bulgarie, étant sur le point d'être renvoyés dans leur pays par la voie de la Roumélie Orientale, la Sublime Porte s'était adressée à Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie pour le prier de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires afin que tous ces émigrés soient réinstallés dans leurs foyers par les soins des autorités Princières. La Sublime Porte ajoutait qu'elle croyait pouvoir compter sur les sentiments de justice et d'humanité de Son Altesse pour que ces émigrés soient protégés dans leurs personnes et dans leurs biens.

En réponse, le Gouvernement Princier a informé la Sublime Porte que, par suite des difficultés que présentait la réinstallation de ces réfugiés, il désirait avoir une liste de ceux qui doivent retourner dans leur pays, avec indication des lieux dont ils sont originaires.

Conformément à cette demande je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-joint cette

liste, et vous prie de la faire parvenir à Sophia, afin que le repatriement et l'installation des réfugiés dont il s'agit ne rencontrent pas d'entraves.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 265.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 9 Décembre, 1879.

LE Ministère des Affaires Etrangères prie l'Agence Princière de vouloir bien faire viser par sa Chancellerie les feuilles de route ci-jointes, destinées à des soldats licenciés rentrant dans leurs foyers en Bulgarie. Le Ministère Impérial croit devoir ajouter que ces militaires ont les moyens nécessaires de subsistence.

No. 266.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1119.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's despatch to your Lordship No. 298 of the 10th ultimo (copy transmitted to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 1462 of the 4th instant), Sawas Pasha informs me that instructions have been sent by the Austro-Hungarian Government to its Minister at Belgrade to give the most energetic support to the Turkish Plenipotentiary in his demand that the Servian members of the Joint Commission, provided for by the Treaty of Berlin to inquire into the claim of Mussulman subjects of the Porte who formerly held property in Servia, and now wish to recover its value, should be appointed without further delay. His Excellency hopes that your Lordship will give similar instructions to Her Majesty's Minister, as he is convinced that the Servian Government is doing its utmost to evade the obligation imposed upon it by the Treaty of Berlin, and is endeavouring, by various pretexts, to so limit the term given to the Commission for settling these claims, that its labours will prove altogether inoperative. His Excellency observes that he cannot believe that the Powers, whilst compelling Turkey to execute strictly all the Articles in the Treaty which are unfavourable to her, will permit all those that may be favourable to her to be evaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 267.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1120.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1879.

THE Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has given to me, officially, and, I believe, to the other Representatives of the Great Powers, a copy of a telegram sent on the 15th instant to the Ottoman Ambassador at Vienna, in reply to a despatch from the Baron de Haymerle to the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte, communicated by him to his Excellency. As Sawas Pasha states in this telegram that a copy of it has been transmitted to the other Turkish Representatives abroad, no doubt for communication to the Governments to which they are respectively accredited, I have not thought it necessary to send one to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 268.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1126.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches on matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Adrianople, Kaiserieh, and Scio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 268.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Adrianople, December* 8, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of yesterday, I beg to submit to your Excellency herewith an extract, in translation, of one of the Reports addressed by Réouf Pasha to the Grand Vizier on the subject of the employment of the Ottoman Bank as cashiers of the Provincial Government.

This document has been communicated to me in the strictest confidence by Mr. Black, Director of the Adrianople branch of the Ottoman Bank, who himself obtained it confidentially, and who assures me of its perfect authenticity.

As your Excellency will observe, Réouf Pasha justifies himself in this document for disregarding the decision of the Ministry of Finance and continuing to employ the Ottoman Bank as depositories of the provincial funds.

The Governor-General shows that, by the latter arrangement, the expense of forwarding money in groups to the central Treasury of the province, and of paying the salaries of clerks and cashiers, has been saved, and that an economy has thus been effected of 120,000 piastres on the sum of 3,000,000 piastres—the amount of taxes collected up to the date of his Report; that a further economy of 110,000 piastres (for the chief town of the vilayet alone) has resulted from the avoidance of loss on exchange; and that the sums thus saved are certain to increase in amount year after year.

His Excellency, moreover, points out with courageous outspokenness that the Bank is a much safer depository of funds than the Turkish Treasury officials, whom he charges, by implication, with dishonesty and corruption.

The extract in question bears no date, but Mr. Black informs me that it was written in June last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 268.

Réouf Pasha to the Grand Vizier.

(Extrait.)

J'AVAIS proposé à votre Altesse de nous servir de la succursale de la Banque Impériale Ottomane en qualité de notre caissier, auquel nous aurions à verser, au fur et à mesure, directement, tous les fonds perçus pour le compte du Gouvernement du vilayet, et par l'entremise duquel nous aurions à effectuer tous nos encaissements et nos paiements, conformément aux registres du vilayet. Bref, cette proposition n'ayant pas été approuvée par le Ministère des Finances, une correspondance a été échangée à cet effet entre lui et le Grand Vizirat, qui, à la fin, m'a donnée une réponse négative.

Cependant, qu'il me soit permis d'exposer à votre Altesse que, sur un montant de plus de 3,000,000 piastres sur les revenus du vilayet, dont une partie a été encaissée ici, et l'autre dans les dépendances du vilayet, nous n'avons rien dépensé pour frais de transport et de groupes, ni pour appointements de caissier et de kiatib (écrivain); ce qui a produit une économie de 120,000 piastres pour le Trésor Impérial, et en même temps l'avantage que ce montant a été placé de la manière la plus sûre. Outre

l'économie sus-mentionnée, qui pourrait arriver annuellement au chiffre de plus de 300,000 piastres, il y a eu un profit (seulement pour le chef-lieu du vilayet) de 110,000 piastres sur la différence des monnaies auxquelles ont été effectués jusqu'aujourd'hui ces encaissements insignifiants. Il est donc à espérer que cette différence sur les encaissements annuels de tout le vilayet peut surpasser le chiffre de 1,000,000 piastres, tandis que dans les mains des caissiers de notre système il ne resterait au profit du Trésor Impérial que le 20 pour cent du dit montant.

Par conséquent, dans l'intérêt du Trésor, et dans le but de garantir les fonds du Gouvernement contre toute sorte d'abus et de soustraction, je demande de nouveau l'autorisation de faire verser les fonds du vilayet, comme jusqu'aujourd'hui, à la succursale de la Banque Ottomane; c'est-à-dire, de nous en servir, sans aucun frais, en qualité de notre caissier-général.

Inclosure 3 in No. 268.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I met yesterday, at the house of my Greek colleague, two of the Greek members of the Commission of Reforms now sitting here (*vide* my despatch No. 11 of the 7th instant).

They expressed to me some dissatisfaction at the manner in which the Provincial Statute is being elaborated. It appears that, instead of each member of the Commission being furnished with a copy of the "projet" or draft framed at the Porte, the Articles are read out, two or three at a time, by the President at each meeting, and the members forthwith proceed to discuss them. At each meeting only the number of Articles actually under discussion are read out. The Greek members complain that by this process no time is allowed them to study the laws brought under their consideration, and that, furthermore, they cannot always grasp the sense of what is read to them, owing to their insufficient knowledge of Turkish legal phraseology. They stated that even their Turkish colleagues laboured under the same difficulty.

They also observed that they had always supposed that, in accordance with Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty, the Provincial Statutes of the Empire would be framed by local Commissions and then be submitted to the Porte and the European Commission, instead of which they now found, to their surprise, that the reverse process had been adopted.

I called upon Réouf Pasha to-day, and mentioned to him the complaints made to me by the Greek Representatives. His Excellency said that, as regarded the complaint as to the non-observance of the Article in the Berlin Treaty, it was, of course, beyond his competence to deal with. As for the mode of procedure which he had followed in presiding over the labours of the Commission, his Excellency said that it had been dictated by his anxiety lest the draft of the Statute, which ought not to be made public before its entire completion, should be communicated by members of the Commission to their friends, and so be brought under the influence of political schemers, who might seek to introduce into it modifications prejudicial to the Empire. Moreover, he was provided with only three or four copies of the draft, and therefore could not furnish every member with one.

I ventured to remark that I could not see the danger, a fear of which deterred his Excellency from allowing the members of the Commission due time to consider the details of the Statute. But as the Governor-General appeared unwilling to concede this point, I suggested that he might follow the plan of reading to the members of the Commission one day beforehand those Articles which would be brought under discussion on the morrow. Réouf Pasha agreed to this compromise, and promised me that he would adopt it at the next sitting of the Commission.

His Excellency stated to me that, except at the first sitting, the members had not been required to sign the minutes of the proceedings, and that those Articles upon which the Commission had been unable to agree had been left over for future discussion, and would probably not be finally disposed of before the whole Statute had been passed under review.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 268.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 12, 1879.

Sir,

THE Representatives, on the Commission of Reforms, of the towns of Gallipoli, Demotica, and Kirk-Kilissé (all Greeks) called upon me this morning, and reverted to the subject of their complaints regarding the manner in which the discussion of the draft of the Provincial Statute is conducted.

They appeared to think that even the reading one day beforehand of the paragraphs to be discussed on the next day would not enable them to accomplish their mission in such wise as to secure them against the reproach that might be made to them some day of having agreed to enactments unadapted to local wants or baneful to the interests of the communities which they represent.

They admitted, however, that the fact of all disputed Articles being left over for future discussion would, in a great measure, assist them in obtaining a comprehensive view of the whole Statute before they are required to decide upon its details.

The three Representatives who called upon me seemed to be all practical men of independent character, gifted with shrewd perceptions and more than average intelligence. The choice of such men reflects credit upon Réouf Pasha, and proves his anxiety to employ the best talents of the country in helping to frame its future Organic Law.

I cannot, however, help thinking that the members of the Commission are fully justified in asking to be furnished with copies of the draft of that law, and to be allowed sufficient time to study its details.

They have also asked for copies of the Cretan Organic Law, upon which, by Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty, the Statutes of the other European provinces of Turkey are to be moulded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 268.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 12, 1879.

Sir,

AMONG the Articles of the Organic Statute of this province which have been left over for further discussion, is one which prescribes that the Departmental Administrative Councils shall each be composed of three Mussulman and three Christian members.

The Greek members of the Commission now sitting here have objected that such a provision would be wrong in principle, as it would be unfair in practice; for it would tend to perpetuate the distinction between Christians and Mussulmans, and by it districts which are almost exclusively inhabited by people of one or the other of those religions would be represented in the same manner as districts where the two faiths are on a numerical par.

The Greek members argue that it would be better to leave to the population the free choice of its representatives, who would be chosen, not on the strength of the particular faith they may profess, but on that of the amount of confidence the majority of the population may place in them. When the elections are no longer regulated on the basis of religion, the Greek members of the Commission believe that the population, both Mussulman and Christian, will gradually lose its prejudices on that score, and vote for the candidates best fitted for the duties which are expected of them, without reference to their faith.

Réouf Pasha yesterday asked me what were my views on the subject. I told his Excellency that it was a difficult one to deal with; but that, as far as my humble and inexperienced judgment would allow me to offer an opinion, the contention of the Greek members of the Commission was sound; though, with the view of preventing the too exclusive representation of one community to the detriment of the other, it might be advisable, in the beginning of the new era of administration, to make certain exceptions in favour of the minorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 268.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, December 12, 1879.

Sir,

THE Commission of Reforms now sitting here consists of 22 members, of whom 11 represent the various districts, while 11 are leading functionaries of the Provincial Administration, including the Governor-General as President.

Of the 12 representative members, 4 are Greeks, 3 Mussulmans, 2 Armenians, 1 a Bulgarian, and 1 a Jew.

The districts are represented in the following manner:—

Gallipoli, 1 Greek.
Demotica, 1 Greek.
Kirk-Klissé, 1 Greek.
Rodosto, 1 Armenian.
Adrianople, 2 Turks, 1 Bulgarian, 1 Greek, 1 Armenian, 1 Jew.

Thus the town and district of Adrianople are represented by 6 members, while the other five districts have only 1 each.

This disproportion may probably be explained by Réouf Pasha's anxiety to place on the Commission only persons whose characters and capabilities he has had an opportunity of judging.

Though three-fourths of the representative members are non-Mussulmans the disparity in this respect is rectified by the proportion of Mussulmans among the *ex officio* members, of whom nine out of eleven are Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 269.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 80. Political.)

Salonica, December 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard, relative to the transfer of Tahsin Effendi, Inspector-General of Tribunals, from the Vilayet of Salonica to that of Cossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, December 11, 1879.

Sir,

AS I informed your Excellency in my telegram of the 7th instant, Tahsin Effendi, the Inspector-General of Tribunals in the Vilayet of Salonica, whose praiseworthy conduct I reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 7th November last, has been transferred to the Vilayet of Cossova.

His removal from a post in which he has given proofs of ability, intelligence, and impartiality, is esteemed a public loss by all classes here; the more so as it is said the official who is to replace him belongs to the Ulema class.

In endorsing the high opinion entertained here of the character and worth of Tahsin Effendi, I beg leave to add that I have rarely met with a Turkish functionary so free from corrupt influences, and the zeal and good intentions he displayed, under very difficult circumstances, in trying to inform and improve the administration of justice in this vilayet deserve praise.

Tahsin Effendi considers his removal to a less important post a mark of disapproval, and has in consequence sent in his resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 270.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 81. Political.)

Salonica, December 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches, with one inclosure, which I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard relative to the formation of the Special Commission at Salonica, under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, for examining into and reporting upon the Organic Law proposed by the Porte for the administration of the Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 270.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, December 9, 1879.

Sir,

THIS morning I sent to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"The Commission constituted to report upon the Organic Law consists of 11 Mahommedan, 7 Christian, and 2 Jewish members, 9 of whom are public functionaries. The Christian community is dissatisfied and asks that the native element should be more largely represented in the Commission."

The inclosed statement gives the names and other particulars of the members of the above Commission as constituted by the "Idareh-Medjliss," Administrative Council of Salonica.

Your Excellency will observe that, of the 20 members of which the Commission is composed, 9 are paid servants of the State (8 Mahommedans and 1 Christian), 7 are members of the local Councils (3 Mahommedans and 1 Jew), 2 native merchants (both Christians), and 2 ecclesiastics (1 Christian and 1 Jew). 15 of these members are natives of Macedonia, viz., 8 Mahommedans, 5 Christians, and 2 Jews. Of the 15 natives 5 are in the Government service, 8 (including the Vekil or Delegate of the Grand Rabbi, who has a seat in the Administrative Council) are members of the local Councils or Courts, and 2 only are unconnected with the provincial Administration.

Having heard from the Greek Archbishop and other sources that the leading members of the local Christian community complained of the above formation of the Commission on the ground of its not being sufficiently representative, and of it including a very large proportion of Mahommedans and members of the Administration, I availed myself of an early opportunity to mention the subject unofficially to the Governor-General, and I pointed out to him the importance of forming the Commission in question in strict accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which lays down that the native element should be largely represented in the Commission.

I also suggested that the Sandjaks (provinces) of Serres and Drama, which are included in the Vilayet of Salonica, should be represented in the Commission; and I at the same time remarked to his Excellency that the Report of the Salonica Commission upon the Organic Law would probably not be entertained by the International Commission for Eastern Roumelia, to which it will have to be submitted by the Porte, should it be represented that the Commission here was not organized in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency thanked me for having called his attention to the matter, and said that he would direct his Idareh Medjliss (Administrative Council) to reconsider their list of members, with a view to introducing into the Commission representatives from the above-named two Sandjaks.

The Medjliss will meet on Thursday, the 11th instant, when I hope the question will be settled in a manner which will satisfy the community.

I should add that some of my foreign colleagues also find fault with the hasty and partial manner in which the Commission has been formed, but they have not, from all I hear, had any communication on the subject with the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 270.

NAMES, &c., of the Members of the Special Commission instituted at Salonica to Examine into and Report upon the Organic Law for the Turkish Provinces.

Name.	Country.	Religion.	Rank, Profession, &c.	Remarks.
Refaat Pasha	Asia Minor ..	Mahommedan ..	Governor-General of Vilayet of Salonica.	About two years in present office.
Refaat Bey	" ..	" ..	Defterdar of ditto	Ditto.
Agnieh Bey	Macedonia ..	" ..	Director of Telegraphs, ditto ..	About four years, ditto.
Hafuz Hafiff Effendi ..	Asia Minor ..	" ..	Chief of the Custom-house, ditto .	Ditto.
Mustu Bey	Macedonia ..	" ..	President of Civil Court, ditto ..	About three months in present office. Has been many years in Local Administration; and was member of the Ottoman Parliament.
Abdi Effendi	" ..	" ..	Registrar and Secretary of Court of Appeal, ditto.	About three months in present office. Has been many years in Local Administration
Enis Effendi	" ..	" ..	First Secretary of Administrative Council, ditto.	Has been about six years in present office.
Arif Bey	" ..	" ..	President of Municipal Council, ditto.	Has been about two, ditto.
Ibrahim Bey	" ..	" ..	Member of the Administrative Council, ditto.	"Ulema," and one of the principal landowners in Macedonia.
Hiindi Bey	" ..	" ..	Ditto	A large landowner in Macedonia.
Salih Bey	" ..	" ..	Ditto	Ditto.
Constantinaki Pasha ..	Constantinople	Christian ..	"Mustechar," Assistant Governor-General, ditto.	Has held the appointment about four years.
Kallinikos	" ..	" ..	Greek Archbishop, ditto ..	Ditto, about one year.
Athanasai Haidetto ..	Macedonia ..	" ..	Member of the Administrative Council, ditto.	Ditto, about two years.
Stephanos Datti ..	" ..	" ..	Member of Court of Appeal, ditto	Ditto, about three months.
Christaki Effendi (Sarl) .	" ..	" ..	Member of Civil Court, ditto ..	Ditto.
Vassiliaki Papaz Oglou ..	" ..	" ..	Wine merchant	Ex-member of Ottoman Parliament.
Sterio Joannidi	" ..	" ..	Merchant	Ex-member of Local Criminal Court.
Bohor Saltiel	" ..	Jew ..	Member of Administrative Council of Salonica.	Has held the appointment several years.
Samuel Matalon ..	" ..	" ..	"Vekil" or Delegate of Grand Rabbi of Salonica at the Administrative Council of Salonica.	Ditto.

Inclosure 3 in No. 270.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, December 12, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 9th instant, and reporting the representations I made unofficially to the Governor-General relative to the special Local Commission to be constituted for examining into and reporting upon the proposed Organic Law for the Turkish provinces, I have the honour to further report to your Excellency that the "Idareh Medjliss," Administrative Council, though at first it manifested a rather strong inclination against making changes in the formation of the Commission, has finally, in consequence, I have reason to believe, of a telegraphic instruction received by the Governor-General from the Porte, reformed the Commission in a manner which, on the whole, seems to give some satisfaction to the Greek Archbishop and his community.

The Commission will now be composed of ten Mahommedans, eight Christians, and two Jews. Of these twenty members seventeen are natives of Macedonia and three of Asia Minor.

Of the native element two will represent the Sandjak of Serres, two the Sandjak of Drama, and thirteen the Sandjak of Salonica. The Commission will include six paid servants of the State instead of nine, as originally arranged. Of these six four are natives of Macedonia.

The Governor-General will take no part in the deliberations of the Commission, and I should add, in justice to him, that it was at his own suggestion his name was struck out from the list of members, as an earnest of his desire that the Commission should be entirely independent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 271.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 401.)

My Lord,

Philippopoli, December 13, 1879.

AS the dispute between Baron de Hirsch and the peasants of Bellova, in respect to his rights under a concession from the Porte for the cutting of wood in the forest of Bellova, is likely to assume the proportion of a diplomatic question between the Austrian Government and that of Turkey, owing to the manifest object of the Government of this province to dispossess Baron de Hirsch of the rights which he claims, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts from the "Maritza," throwing light on the present condition of that question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 271.

Extract from the "Maritza" of December 9, 1879.

DANS sa séance de Vendredi, [23 Novembre / 5 Décembre] l'Assemblée Provinciale, après avoir entendu le Rapport de la Commission nommée par ses sections pour étudier le Projet de Loi sur la division administrative de la province, a ajourné la discussion à Lundi, et s'est occupée de quelques interpellations de peu d'importance.

Dans la séance de Samedi, M. Matakieff a développé son interpellation sur le procès des villageois de Bellova contre le Baron de Hirsch. M. Matakieff a insisté que le Baron de Hirsch s'est contre toute justice emparé de la partie de la Forêt de Bellova qui appartient aux villageois, et a proposé à la Chambre de demander la mise à exécution du jugement rendu par le Tribunal de Tatar-Bazardjik. Après les explications de MM. les Directeurs de l'Intérieur, de la Justice, et des Travaux Publics, la Chambre a adopté un ordre du jour recommandant au Gouvernement la prompte solution de cette question.

Dans la séance d'hier, Lundi, l'Assemblée Provinciale s'est occupée exclusivement du Projet de Loi sur la division administrative de la province, projet qui a été adopté sauf quelques petites modifications.

Inclosure 2 in No. 271.

Extract from the "Maritza" of December 12, 1879.

DANS notre dernier numéro nous avons parlé de la discussion qui a eu lieu dans l'Assemblée Provinciale à propos de la Forêt de Bellova. Aujourd'hui, examinons un peu les droits de M. le Baron Hirsch sur cette belle forêt.

Suivant le Statut Organique tous engagements de la Sublime Porte antérieurs à la guerre doivent être maintenus.

Or, l'exploitation de la Forêt de Bellova a été concédée en 1868 par la Sublime Porte à M. le Baron Hirsch pour trente-cinq ans; et ce dernier est décidé de faire valoir ses droits jusqu'à l'expiration de son contrat.

Certes, le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale n'a pas le droit de méconnaître les engagements de la Sublime Porte vis-à-vis le Baron Hirsch; mais l'on ne saurait lui refuser celui d'examiner si toutes les clauses du contrat ont été scrupuleusement respectées par M. le Baron.

En sa qualité de Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, M. le Prince Bogoridi pourrait bien demander—et il serait de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte d'adhérer à cette demande—que les clauses du dit contrat fussent examinées par une Commission composée de juges compétents, et sous la surveillance immédiate de la Direction des Travaux Publics.

Supposons un instant que M. le Baron Hirsch ou ses agents aient outrepassé, dans l'exploitation de la Forêt de Bellova, les droits que lui conféraient les clauses du contrat pour cette exploitation.

Ou bien, pour parler plus clairement, précisons les points en litige entre le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale et M. le Baron Hirsch.

Le Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale prétend :—

1. Que la partie de la Forêt de Bellova concédée à M. le Baron Hirsch est dévastée par les agents de M. le Baron Hirsch, et pas exploitée.

2. Que les agents de M. le Baron Hirsch ont dépassé, dans la dite exploitation, les limites indiquées dans le contrat.

M. le Baron Hirsch pourrait prétendre le contraire.

Il résulterait donc de ces deux affirmations contradictoires, un procès entre M. le Baron Hirsch et le Gouverneur de la Roumélie Orientale, un procès qui serait de droit de la compétence de nos Tribunaux.

L'Assemblée Provinciale ayant décidé que cette question devrait être promptement vidée par notre Gouvernement, il appartiendrait à l'initiative de ce dernier de faire porter l'affaire devant des juges compétents, afin qu'ils eussent à décider :—

1. Sur les indemnités dues à la Roumélie Orientale pour toutes les dévastations commises, contrairement aux stipulations du contrat, dans la Forêt de Bellova.

2. Sur la cessation des travaux en des endroits où le contrat de M. le Baron Hirsch ne devrait avoir aucune valeur.

3. Quelles seraient les mesures à prendre pour la délimitation exacte des points au delà desquels l'exploitation de M. le Baron Hirsch ne pourrait s'étendre ?

4. Quel genre de contrôle devrait être créé pour surveiller à l'avenir, d'une façon aussi sévère que correcte, l'exploitation de la Forêt Bellova par les agents de M. le Baron Hirsch suivant le Règlement Forestier du Statut Organique ?

Ce n'est que par ces moyens légaux que l'on arriverait à délimir nos droits sur une forêt qui devrait produire de grands revenus à notre budget.

No. 272.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 402.) *Philippopoli, December* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of eleven petitions addressed to the Governor-General and myself by Turkish refugees who have returned to neighbouring districts, and who complain, in most of the cases, that the Bulgarian villagers have taken possession of their fields and crops without giving them a sufficient, or any, equivalent in kind or money.

Nearly all the petitioners represent that they must die of hunger unless they obtain the share of crops and the rent due to them, and several declare that their appeals on this subject to the local authorities have had no result whatever, although one-half of the corn due to them would suffice to keep them alive during the winter.

In one of the petitions it is stated that several deaths from starvation have already occurred.

The Mussulman peasantry of thirteen villages in the Giopsu district, which belongs to the department of Philippopoli, state that, dying of cold and hunger (their woods having in some cases been taken from them), they have been compelled to sell land at 25 to 30 piastres, or from one-sixth to one-fifth of a pound, per deunum (the real average price being at least 2 *l.* per deunum), and that they will be forced to sell the remainder in order to purchase bread.

In one case the representatives of 175 Turkish families state that the Bulgarians who occupy their houses refuse to evacuate them at the order of the authorities of Carlovo, and that consequently the Mussulman proprietors with their wives and children, numbering 695 persons, are encamped in the snow and in the open air.

Fields and meadows belonging to Mussulmans have in some instances been sold to neighbouring Bulgarian villagers.

I am personally acquainted with a case in which a wood belonging to a Turkish village has been similarly disposed of; while in several other cases that have been brought to my knowledge, Bulgarians have continued to cultivate the fields of refugees in spite of the protests of the latter.

In the neighbouring district of Karajadagh the Bulgarian inhabitants of the village of Aktal are still removing the ruins of a Turkish village, and have actually begun to plough over the sites of former Mussulman houses.

A petitioner from the district of Kyrdjali complains of the inactivity of the police in the neighbouring town of Stanimaka, to whom he had pointed out one of the armed "Bulgarian brigands" who had a few days previously attacked him and his companions in a forest, and robbed them of money, clothes, and mules.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Hadji Mahalessi.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village Hadji Mahalessi, district de Kirdjali, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Il y a quarante-cinq jours nous nous sommes rendus à Stanimaka pour affaires. Après avoir terminé notre affaire, pendant notre retour, en passant par la Forêt de Kechlich, à une heure de distance du village de Yeni Mahalé, vers 4 heures du soir, nous vîmes sortir de cette forêt quatre Bulgares brigands, tenant à leurs mains chacun un fusil Martini. Ils se sont précipités sur nous; ils ont liés nos mains, et cela en présence de trois Musulmans du village d'Igriller, qui étaient de passage, et ils ont pris de nous: d'Ahmed 650 piastres, et de Yonous 300 piastres, en tout 950 piastres, qu'ils nous ont volés, et après nous avoir insulté, ils nous ont dépouillés complétement. Ils ont pris aussi nos habits, et les quatre mulets que nous avions, après quoi ils ont pris la fuite. Quelques jours après nous avons rencontré l'un de ces brigands, qui se promenait à Stanimaka, et avons avisé l'autorité qui l'a arrêté, et mis en prison: Jusqu'à ce moment aucune suite n'a été donné à cette affaire.

Nous vous prions humblement de vouloir bien examiner cette affaire, et nous rendre la justice.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) AHMED.
YONOUS.

Le 24 *Novembre*, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Merhanlar.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Merhanlar, district de Keubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les récoltes de nos champs que nous avons laissés l'année passée ont été enlevées par les Bulgares du village de Sali. Quoique nous eussions réclamé de l'autorité locale la moitié de nos récoltes, il nous a été livré une partie très-insignifiante; on nous a refusé de payer l'indemnité de la location de nos champs.

Nous sommes soixante familles Musulmanes. Bien que nous ayons quelques champs à cultiver, à cause du manque de bœufs et d'instruments aratoires, nous ne pouvons rien faire, car il nous manque aussi les moyens pour les procurer.

Nous prions donc à votre Excellence pour ne pas mourir de faim durant cette hiver, de nous faire donner la moitié des récoltes qui nous sont dues de l'année passée, ainsi que le montant de la location de nos champs, et de nous fournir aussi ce qui est nécessaire pour les cultiver.

Nous avons l'honneur d'ajouter à votre Excellence que si on ne nous donne

pas les récoltes qui nous sont dues, nous serons tous perdus, à cause du manque de nourriture.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant,
(Signé) OSMAN OGLOU MOUSTAFA.

Le 22 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 272.

Petition from Turk of Philippopoli.

(Traduction.)

A M. le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

JE soussigné, habitant de Philippopoli, quartier de Kutchukyaka, ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Dans la nuit de Jeudi passé, 22 courant, le nommé Elia, gendre de Berber Kostaki, demeurant dans notre quartier, ayant dans ses mains un fusil Martini-Henry, a cherché à m'assassiner. N'ayant pu me trouver la dite nuit, dans la journée du lendemain, Vendredi, au moment où je restais au café, Elia est venu me trouver, et m'a dit qu'il avait de la rancune envers moi, et qu'il devait se venger. Après m'avoir insulté, non satisfait de cela, il m'a pris hors du café, et en pleine rue, au milieu du monde, m'a battu horriblement.

La police de Kutchukyaka est arrivée à temps, mais, malgré mes justifications, elle m'a arrêté et mis en prison. En ce moment encore Elia continue de me blâmer auprès les gendarmes, et dit qu'il doit me tuer sans faute. Après m'avoir gardé pendant trois heures la police m'a laissé sortir sans caution.

Comme je n'ai aucune confiance dans le nommé Elia, je vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien lui faire donner une garantie qu'il me laisse tranquille.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) OSMAN OGLOU ALI.

Le 24 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 4 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Sare-Ebri-Bey.

(Traduction.)

A M. Thomas Michell, Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Philippopoli.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Sare-Ebri-Bey, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Pour cultiver les champs qu'on avait préparés il y a un mois, nos villageois ont adressé une demande à l'Autorité Centrale pour demander 750 kilés de grains pour ensemencer leurs champs.

L'autorité nous répond que notre pétition a été envoyée au Gouverneur d'Ibrachlar, pour qu'il soit donnée suite. Sur notre demande le Gouverneur d'Ibrachlar nous répond que la dite pétition a été retournée à Philippopoli.

Maintenant, malgré nos démarches auprès de l'autorité d'ici, il nous a été impossible de trouver notre pétition depuis un mois que nous sommes ici ; nous perdons inutilement notre temps.

Dans le cas où il ne nous donne pas les grains demandés tous nos villageois souffriront davantage à l'avenir.

Nous vous supplions, M. le Consul-Général, de prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos, et nous faire donner les grains demandés pour pouvoir ensemencer nos champs.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les représentants des villageois,
(Signé) AHMED.
AALI.

Le 17 Novembre 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 5 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of thirteen Villages.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans des treize villages :—d'Abdul Rahmanlc, Yeken Kariyessi, Kouralar, Acheklar, Yeghen Ova, Tatarlar, Déréli, Kousoular, Kousséler, Terhanlar, Yeken Bakal, Okdjeular, et Aylalar, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous n'avons absolument pas de récoltes pour pouvoir passer cet hiver ; nous nous trouvons sans pain et mourant de froid, à cause du manque de bois et de charbon.

Vu notre nécessité absolue nous avons vendu nos champs de 25 à 30 piastres le deunum (100 mètres carrés). Plusieurs de nos pauvres villageois qui ne possèdent pas de propriétés meurent de faim, car ils n'ont aucun moyen de pouvoir s'acheter le nécessaire.

Nous prions donc instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire donner des récoltes pour passer cet hiver ; en cas contraire, nous serons obligés de vendre les 5 à 10 deunums de champs qui nous restent à des prix insignifiants, pour nous procurer du pain.

Nous venons exposer cette critique position à votre Excellence, espérant qu'elle voudra bien prendre en considération notre demande, en nous fournissant les grains nécessaires pour ne pas mourir de faim.

En attendant impatiemment les ordres de votre Excellence, nous prions d'agréer, &c.

Les représentants des 13 villages susindiqués,
(Signé) VELI.
AHMED.
EL SAÏD MOUSTAPHA.
OSMAN.
AHMED.
AALI.
SULEYMAN PEYLIVAN.
AALI.
AHMED.
MOUSTAPHA.
ISMAÏL.
EL SAÏD MEHMED.
ISMAÏL.

Le 26 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 6 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Yeghen Ova.

(Traduction.)

A la Commission des Réfugiés à Philippopoli.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Yeghen Ova, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Les champs de roses qui nous appartiennent ont été vendus par les villageois Bulgares de Akdjé Kilissé, qui en ont pris aussi les produits.

Quoique nous ayons adressés une pétition à cet égard, il nous a été répondu que cette somme se trouvait à la Caisse de l'autorité de Carlova. Nous nous sommes rendus à Carlova et bien qu'on ait trouvé enregistrée cette affaire, l'argent n'a pas été versé à la Caisse de Carlova. Après des recherches nous avons appris que nos champs ont été vendus par le Notable de Akdjé Kilissé, le nommé Patol Tchorbadji (Bulgare), et l'argent a été encaissé par ce dernier.

Patol Tchorbadji se trouve actuellement à Orhanié.

Nous prions donc de vouloir bien le faire chercher, et nous rendre la justice.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Yeghen Ova,
(Signé) MEHMED.

Le 24 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 7 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Abdul-Rahmanle.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village d'Abdul Rahmanle, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 175 familles représentant 695 personnes. Les récoltes que nous avons laissées l'année passée ont été enlevées par les villageois Bulgares de Prassadim. Suivant notre droit, nous avons réclamés à l'autorité locale la moitié de ces récoltes; mais malheureusement ils ont refusé de nous les donner depuis quatre mois; continuellement nous faisons nos démarches auprès des autorités de Philippopoli et de Carlova, et après nous avoir fait souffrir, avec grande difficulté, il nous en a été délivré seulement 1,397 okes de blés, et ont refusé de nous donner le reste.

Nos champs pour les bestiaux ont été vendus par les Bulgares de Prassadim, et sur cela on ne nous a rien payé.

Nous nous trouvons donc, avec nos familles, dans une très-critique position; nous avons vendus dernièrement quelques champs de roses et autres que nous avions, à 30 piastres le deunum (100 mètres). Actuellement, nos maisons sont occupées par les Bulgares du village de Prassadim, et nous autres Musulmans nous nous trouvons, avec nos enfants, au milieu de la rue pleine de neige.

Quoique l'autorité de Carlova a donné l'ordre aux villageois Bulgares de Prassadim pour évacuer nos maisons, cependant ces derniers ne veulent pas exécuter les ordres de la dite autorité.

Nous prions donc à votre Excellence de nous faire restituer nos récoltes pour ne pas mourir de faim durant cet hiver, et de nous faire payer l'indemnité qui nous est due pour la location de nos champs.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Abdul-Rahmanle,
(Signé) HADJI VELI.

Le 23 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 8 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Tatarlar.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Tatarlar, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les villageois Bulgares ont pris possession de notre forêt, et on ne nous laissa pas couper de bois. Nous nous trouvons donc dans une déplorable situation à cause du froid, et avec nos familles, nous n'avons pas un morceau de bois pour nous chauffer.

Pour ne pas nous geler du froid, nous prions instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires aux villageois Bulgares de Déréli de restituer notre forêt, et nous laisser tranquilles.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Tatarlar,
(Signé) MESSERLE AALI.
MEHMED.

Le 24 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 9 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Keusséler.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-General de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Keusséler, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les produits des champs que nous avons abandonnés l'année passée ont été enlevés par nos villageois Bulgares; quoique nous eussions demandé de l'autorité locale nos récoltes, jusqu'à ce jour on ne nous a rien restitué.

On ne nous a même pas payé l'indemnité de la location de nos champs pour l'année courante. Nous sommes 130 personnes affamées.

Plusieurs d'entre nous meurent à cause du manque de nourriture; nous avons aussi des champs à cultiver pour l'année suivante, mais nous n'avons ni bœufs ni instruments aratoires à cet effet. Il nous manque même le moyen de pouvoir les acheter.

Nous prions donc instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire donner les récoltes qui sont dues de l'année passée, pour pouvoir vivre durant cet hiver, et en même temps de nous procurer des bœufs et des instruments aratoires pour pouvoir cultiver nos champs; en cas contraire, nous serons tous perdus, à cause du manque de nourriture.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Keuléler,
(Signé) ABDULLAH OGLOU MEHMED.

Le 22 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 10 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Keuléler.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Keuléler, district de Gueubsu, relevant du Département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 40 familles, composées de 159 personnes. Nous avons nos champs, mais nous n'avons ni bœufs ni instruments aratoires pour les cultiver, ainsi que nous n'avons aucun espoir de pouvoir vivre pendant cet hiver, et comme nous sommes privés de rations, avec nos malheureuses familles, mourons de faim; plusieurs de nous sont morts à cause du manque de nourriture. Nous vous prions donc, au nom de l'humanité, de vouloir bien nous fournir des bœufs et des instruments aratoires pour pouvoir cultiver nos champs, et nous fournir un peu de blé pour cet hiver, sans quoi nous mourrons tous de faim.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Keuléler,
(Signé) EYOUB OGLOU AALI.

Le 22 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 11 in No. 272.

Petition from Turks of Tekké.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

NOUS soussignés, habitants du village de Tekké, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 93 familles, représentant 356 personnes.

Les récoltes que nous avons laissées l'année passée, ont été enlevées par les villageois Bulgares de Kara Hissarle.

Suivant notre droit, nous avons réclamé de l'autorité locale la moitié de ces récoltes ; avec grande difficulté il nous en a été délivré une partie très-insignifiante.

Bien que nous ayons quelques champs à cultiver, à cause du manque de bœufs et d'instruments aratoires, nous ne pouvons rien faire, car il nous manque aussi les moyens pour les procurer.

Nous prions donc à votre Excellence, pour ne pas mourir de faim durant cet hiver, de nous faire donner la moitié des récoltes qui nous sont dues de l'année passée, et de nous fournir aussi ce qui est nécessaire pour les cultiver.

Nous avons l'honneur d'ajouter à votre Excellence que si on ne nous donne pas les récoltes qui nous sont dues nous mourrons tous de faim.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Tekké.

(Signé) MEHMED AGLOU AHMED.

Le 22 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

No. 273.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 26.*)

No 403.) *Philippopoli, December* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM happy to be able to report to your Lordship that there appears to be a good prospect of a Society being established in this town for the relief of the classes that have been impoverished by the results of the late war.

The Exarch has this day expressed to me his readiness to convoke a general meeting of the principal inhabitants of Philippopoli for the purpose of taking into consideration the means of organizing the relief which those classes so much require.

After consultation with my colleagues and with some of the notables of this town, I have drawn up and circulated the inclosed Rules of the proposed Society, and it is intended to submit them to the meeting which the Exarch has agreed to convoke, prior to soliciting their confirmation by the Governor-General.

The proposed organization is of a somewhat complicated character, in order to secure the co-operation of all political parties in this province, and to provide for the due protection of the interests of the Turkish refugees, whose exceptional sufferings will, it is to be hoped, attract the greater part of the subscriptions which the Society will solicit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 273.

PROJET.

Statut de la Société de Secours aux Classes Appauvries de la Roumélie Orientale.

ARTICLE 1er. Le but de la Société est de secourir, dans la limite de ses moyens, ceux des habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de race ou de religion, qui souffrent des suites de la dernière guerre.

Art. 2. La Société est composée de membres faisant un versement annuel d'une demie livre Turque au minimum.

Elle se réunit tous les trois mois pour prendre connaissance du compte-rendu général qui lui sera présenté par son Comité Central, ci-après désigné.

Art. 3. La direction générale des œuvres charitables de la Société est confiée à un Comité Central siégeant à Philippopoli. Ce Comité est composé de quinze membres. Parmi ces derniers seront choisis un Président, un Vice-Président, un Trésorier, et un Secrétaire.

Dans le cas où la Sublime Porte ou le Gouvernement de la province accorderait une subvention ou aide pécuniaire à la Société, chacun d'eux pourra se faire représenter par un délégué spécial au sein du Comité Central.

Art. 4. Toute somme ou tout don accordé à la Société sera remis au Comité Central, qui devra en faire l'attribution immédiate à l'un ou l'autre des Comités de Secours ci-dessous désignés, conformément aux intentions exprimés par les donateurs. Quant aux sommes ou dons envoyés à la Société sans affectation spéciale, ils seront

assignés suivant les besoins, en suite d'une décision du Comité Central, soit à l'un, soit à l'autre des Comités de Secours.

Art. 5. Le Comité Central se réunit en séance ordinaire une fois par mois. En outre, chaque fois que les affaires de la Société l'exigeraient, il sera convoqué en séance extraordinaire soit sur l'initiative de son Président, soit sur la demande d'un des Comités de Secours.

Pour que le Comité Central délibère valablement, la présence de sept membres au moins—y compris le Président, le Vice-Président, le Trésorier, et le Secrétaire,—sera nécessaire. Les décisions sont prises à la majorité des voix. En cas d'égalité de votes, la voix du Président est prépondérante.

Art. 6. Pour la gestion directe des œuvres de bienfaisance de la Société, il sera également élu à la première assemblée générale de la Société, deux Comités de Secours, dont le siége sera à Philippopoli. L'un de ces Comités sera chargé de soulager la détresse des réfugiés Musulmans ; l'autre de pourvoir aux réfugiés et indigènes nécessiteux appartenant aux nationalités non-Musulmanes de la Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 7. Chaque Comité de Secours sera composé de quinze membres au moins. Il sera élu, au sein même du Comité, un Président, un Trésorier, et un Secrétaire. Chaque Comité de Secours aura le droit de s'adjoindre d'autres membres par voie d'élection.

La présence de sept des membres, dont chaque Comité est composé, y compris le Président, le Trésorier, et le Secrétaire, suffit pour rendre valables ses délibérations. Les décisions seront prises à la majorité des voix. En cas de partage, la voix du Président est prépondérante.

Dans le cas où la Sublime Porte ou le Gouvernement de la province accorderait une subvention ou aide pécuniaire spéciale à l'un de ces Comités, il pourra se faire représenter par un délégué spécial au sein du Comité.

Art. 8. Tant dans l'organisation que dans la distribution de secours, chaque Comité agira indépendamment, dans la limite des ressources spéciales placées à sa disposition par l'entremise du Comité Central.

La responsabilité pécuniaire de chaque Comité est limité à ses propres opérations. Elle ne sera partagée par le Comité Central qu'en vertu d'un accord exprès à cet effet.

Art. 9. Chaque Comité de Secours tient un compte séparé de ses recettes et dépenses, dont il présente un état mensuel au Comité Central. Ce Tableau sera accompagné de pieces justificatives et d'un Rapport sur les opérations du Comité.

Art. 10. Les Comités de Secours se réuniront séparément une fois par semaine, et même plus fréquemment, si besoin sera, sur l'invitation de leurs Présidents respectifs.

Art. 11. En cas de l'existence dans un même village ou une même localité de souffreteux appartenant à plus d'une des races indigènes, les deux Comités précités se réuniront en séance générale, à l'effet de concerter sur les mesures à adopter à cet égard.

Art. 12. Le Comité Central, ainsi que les susdits Comités et leurs agents locaux, ont le droit de se mettre en rapport avec l'Administration Centrale et les autorités locales de la province, dans le cas où ils auraient besoin de l'appui ou de la coopération du Gouvernement dans l'accomplissement de leur œuvre de bienfaisance.

No. 274.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 26.*)

(No. 404. Confidential.) *Philippopoli, December* 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been in communication for some time past with my colleagues, and with some of the leading inhabitants of this town, on the subject of the organization of a Society for the relief of the Turkish refugees who have returned to this province in a condition, and under circumstances, which evidently reserved to a considerable portion of them, if left unaided by State relief or public charity, no other fate except that of dying of cold and hunger during the inclement months of winter.

My French colleague, who is assumed to represent a more neutral tint of politics in regard to this province than the Consular Representatives of Austria-Hungary and Great Britain, took by common consent the initiative in urging the necessity of establishing such a Society.

Unfortunately, however, certain reasons have continued to prevail against the realization of that project, and I take upon myself the responsibility of stating that one of those reasons consisted in an apprehension lest the proposed organization of relief should induce the Porte to send a still greater number of refugees into this province.

I have also no hesitation in saying that other objections connected with the distribution of property, and the numerical relation between certain races in this province, have exercised a powerful influence both over the return of the Turkish refugees and the equitable adjustment of their interests by the Local Government, which, as your Lordship is aware from my despatches, has been virtually in the hands of Panslavist and Bulgarian agitators ever since the cessation of the overt and authorized Russian administration and military occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

Severe cold having, however, very suddenly set in, and found the refugees both at Philippopoli and in the rural districts entirely uncared for by the Local Administration, notwithstanding the pitiful supplications that have been made, not merely for relief, but for the redress of wrongs to which the present condition of the refugees is mainly attributable, I considered it my duty to wait no longer, but to assume the initiative in urging the formation of a Society for the relief of the "classes impoverished by the results of the last war."

I called upon the Bulgarian Exarch and asked him to convoke a meeting with that object, but received a somewhat undecided answer, notwithstanding previous expressions of approval and encouragement.

At a meeting held at the Consulate-General a couple of days later, and which was attended by my colleagues and a few leading notables, M. Isvolski, the Russian Acting Consul-General, was requested to represent to the Exarch the absolute necessity of taking the lead in the proposed movement, with the object of securing the co-operation of all classes, and preventing isolated action on the part of the Consular Body.

M. Isvolski's representations having apparently met with no better success than my own, I addressed to the Exarch the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and to which I have only this day received a verbal reply, to the effect that his Beatitude will immediately convoke the desired meeting.

At the same time the Exarch represented to me that, in taking such action, he was running counter to much opposition on the part of the Bulgarians, whose principal objection was the appointment of two Relief Sub-Committees instead of one Central Committee for the succour of all classes, their alleged fear being lest all the funds that might be collected should be applied to the sufferings of the Mussulmans alone.

I pointed out that the combination which I had sketched out would enable the Bulgarians to enjoy a fair portion of the funds that might be collected by the Society for its general object, but that as the wants of the Turkish refugees were incomparably greater, and would probably enlist a corresponding amount of sympathy both in this province and abroad, it was necessary that the distribution of the funds subscribed for their special benefit should be kept strictly apart.

Moreover, the Porte would certainly not consent to place in the hands of a Central Committee, on which the majority might be Bulgarian, the distribution of bread which it now makes to Mussulmans at Philippopoli, to the value of about £ T. 600 per month.

The Exarch likewise mentioned that the Bulgarians objected to the clause in my draft Rules which were intended to give the Society the right of obtaining the aid and co-operation of the local authorities, but I proved to his Beatitude that a clause to a similar effect was already contained in the Statute of the St. Pantaleimon Hospital Society, founded under Russian auspices, with the sanction of the Governor-General.

I think it right to report to your Lordship these circumstances in a confidential form, as they will serve to illustrate the feelings by which the Bulgarian agitators are animated towards the Mussulman population of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Mr. Michell to the Exarch of Eastern Roumelia.

Philippopoli, le 17 Décembre, 1879.

Monseigneur,

LA rigueur de la saison rend de plus en plus critique la position d'une fraction considérable de la population de cette province. Des cas de mort par la faim et par le froid parmi les réfugiés Turcs m'ont été signalés par Hadji Ismaïl Bey, et je reçois journellement des représentations au sujet de la misère profonde qui règne, tant à Philippopoli que dans un grand nombre de districts ruraux.

Je ne doute point que la misère n'ait également commencé à sévir au sein d'autres classes de la population; et dans ces circonstances je m'empresse de solliciter votre Béatitude de vous mettre à la tête d'un mouvement général dans cette province pour venir au secours des classes souffrantes. Le mieux serait de convoquer au plus tôt une assemblée générale de toutes les personnes qui voudraient faire partie d'une Société de Bienfaisance.

J'ai eu l'honneur de m'entretenir déjà avec votre Béatitude au sujet des bases sur lesquelles une pareille Société pourrait être établie. Je les ai consignées dans un projet de Statut, que je m'empresse de soumettre ci-joint, à l'approbation de votre Béatitude, dans l'espoir qu'elle voudra bien prendre l'initiative de la convocation d'une assemblée appelée à discuter la mise à exécution de ce projet.

Je suis d'autant plus désireux de recevoir une réponse favorable à cet égard, que dans l'opinion de tous ceux avec lesquels je me suis entretenu, ainsi que dans mon opinion personnelle, l'initiative d'un prélat qui s'est acquis la sympathie et la vénération de tous peut seule réunir ici, dans une idée commune de bienfaisance et de charité, toutes les classes de la société.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 275.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 26.*)

(No. 405.)

Philippopoli, December 13, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY morning most of my colleagues, as well as myself, received the telegram of which I inclose a translation from the representative of the Turkish community in the town of Tchirpan, a few hours distant from Philippopoli, representing that the refugees were dying of cold and hunger, and imploring relief in the form of a little grain and fuel.

It was immediately decided that we should transmit the telegram in question to the Governor-General, in letters expressive of our hope that his Excellency would adopt the necessary measures for the relief of the supplicants.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the communication which I made on this subject to the Governor-General, and of the reply which I have since received from his Excellency.

Having abundant and unanswerable evidence of the shameful neglect with which the Turkish refugees have been treated by the Local Administration, I did not hesitate to take upon myself the responsibility of telling the Governor-General, in terms which he could not mistake, that the sufferings of a great portion of the Mussulman population are due to the fact that they have not received the share of crops to which they are entitled, and have not been generally placed in possession of their lands and houses, a certain proportion of the latter, now in ruins, having been still intact when his Excellency assumed the duties of Governor-General.

In the letter which I have this day received from Aleko Pasha no reply is made to this grave charge. His Excellency simply blames the Turkish population for not exhibiting the same activity as their Greek and Bulgarian brethren in the vindication of their rights, the establishment of which, the Governor-General states, is the duty of Tribunals with which his Government cannot interfere, except in cases of corruption or miscarriage of justice.

His Excellency regrets that his Government has not been able to prevent the immigration of the Turkish "prolétariats," now dying of cold and hunger, whose continued absence from the province would have saved the local authorities from much trouble ("bien désembarras"), and themselves from much misery and suffering.

This pitiable apology has no foundation in fact. The refugees who have returned to Eastern Roumelia are not "prolétariats," since they are all owners of property more or less valuable, and creditors of Bulgarian peasants, who have enriched themselves with the produce of Mussulman lands, under conditions which they now, as a general rule, refuse to fulfil.

As regards the vindication of proprietary rights before the Bulgarian Tribunals of Eastern Roumelia, it has apparently escaped the recollection of the Governor-General that

a special Repatriation Commission has long been sitting at Philippopoli, charged with the duty of reinstating the refugees in their landed property, according to rules of proof of ownership which were reduced to the utmost simplicity about a couple of months ago.

The same Commission has been charged with the duty of enforcing the claims of the refugees for rent and shares of crops due by Bulgarian usufructuaries.

It is therefore evident that, according to the arrangements made by the Governor-General himself, the process of re-establishing the Turkish refugees in the enjoyment of their rights is intended to be administrative, not judicial, as at present alleged.

It has, however, given my colleagues and myself much satisfaction to find that our prompt and united action has resulted in the immediate despatch of a Commission to Tchirpan, even with such relief as the feeble resources of the country can afford.

The reply made by the Governor-General to my Austrian, French, Greek, and Italian colleagues is confined to the statement made to the above effect in the first paragraph of the communication which his Excellency has addressed to this Consulate-General.

I have also the satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship that it was resolved this morning, at a meeting of the Provincial Assembly, on the motion of Dr. Yancoloff, to place £ T. 10,000 at the immediate disposal of the Government for the benefit of the Turkish refugees, on account of the credit of £ T. 40,000 included under the same head in the Budget prepared by M. Schmidt.

Authority was also given yesterday to the Prefects to distribute 1,000 kilés (bushels) of corn among the starving population of each department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 275.

Telegram received by Mr. Michell from Tchirpan.

Tchirpan, December 12, 1879, 10·15 A.M.

(Translation.)

THE cold is very great in this town. The refugees are dying of cold and hunger. We pray you to assist with some grain and wood (for fuel).

(Signed) SALI AHMED,
Representative of the Turkish Community at Tchirpan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 275.

Mr. Michell to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 12 *Décembre,* 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

IL est de mon pénible devoir de transmettre à votre Excellence copie d'un télégramme que je viens de recevoir de Sali Ahmed, se désignant le représentant de la communauté Musulmane de Tchirpan, et par lequel je suis conjuré de porter secours aux réfugiés Turcs de cette ville mourant de faim et froid.

En remplissant ce devoir, je ne doute point que votre Excellence ne fasse prendre immédiatement les mesures que cette triste circonstance réclame.

Ces mesures ont été certainement déjà arrêtées par votre Excellence sur une échelle assez vaste, vu que les souffrances d'une grande partie de la population Musulmane, par la faim et le froid étaient malheureusement trop facile à prévoir, aussi longtemps que les réfugiés n'avaient pas reçu la part des récoltes qui leur revenait, et qu'ils n'avaient pas été mis en possession des maisons leur appartenant, et dont une certaine partie, actuellement en ruines, restait encore intacte lors de la cessation de l'administration Russe de cette province.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 275.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Décembre,* 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

EN réponse à votre lettre datée hier, par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me communiquer le télégramme de Tchirpan, sollicitant des secours pour les pauvres réfugiés Musulmans mourant de faim et de froid, j'ai la satisfaction de vous annoncer qu'une Commission Spéciale a été chargée de se rendre immédiatement sur les lieux, en vue d'y distribuer dans la mesure des faibles ressources du pays, tous les secours que cette triste circonstance réclame.

Quant à la question existant entre les paysans Bulgares et les propriétaires Musulmans, elle est du ressort exclusif de la justice dans l'administration de laquelle mon Gouvernement n'a gardé d'intervenir, cette intervention ne pouvant se justifier que dans le cas seulement de déni de justice ou de corruption des Juges. Aussi je regrette infiniment que les propriétaires Musulmans n'aient pas jusqu'à présent cru devoir prendre, en vue de la revendication de leurs droits, la voie tracée par la loi. Je le regrette d'autant plus que si ces derniers avaient, dans la sauvegarde de leurs intérêts, fait preuve de la même intelligence et de la même activité dont leurs compatriotes Grecs et Bulgares leur donnent journellement l'exemple dans la défense de leurs intérêts respectifs, la solution de la question aurait établi que ceux des Musulmans qui souffrent aujourd'hui de la faim et du froid dans la Roumélie Orientale appartiennent exclusivement à cette catégorie de pauvres prolétaires dépourvus de toutes ressources, et dont le Gouvernement de la province avait, dès l'installation de la nouvelle Administration, cherché, quoique malheureusement en vain, à ajourner l'immigration afin d'épargner aux autorités locales bien des embarras et aux pauvres Musulmans bien des misères et des souffrances.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 276.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 163. Political.)

Scutari, December 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 162, Political, of the 11th instant, I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship the following official version of the fighting between the Albanians and Montenegrins on the 4th instant received by me from Cettinjé:—

"On the 21st (o.s.) the Mussulmans attacked the outposts of our corps at Velika. Three battalions were sent as reinforcements, and as soon as they met the enemy they commenced a sharp engagement, and drove him routed up to Plava itself.

"These three battalions lost 83 killed and 107 wounded."

I am still, however, inclined to look upon the occurrence as a Montenegrin disaster, although, on the 9th instant, it was celebrated all over the Principality by salutes and illuminations as a victory.

By Albanians, whom I have hitherto found most trustworthy, I am assured that the whole of the Montenegrin force on the right bank of the Lim, and which was composed of the greater part of three battalions, was completely destroyed.

They state that the attack was provoked by the Montenegrins occupying Velika, and thus cutting the main road to Ipek. The Albanians, to secure the free passage of provisions and reinforcements, were obliged to endeavour to dislodge the Montenegrins, and were able to prevent their retreat by seizing the bridge near Novsicé unperceived during the night.

Letters from Gussinjé announce that another attack was being prepared for Friday (yesterday), the 12th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 277.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 164. Political.) *Scutari, December* 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been unable to report to your Lordship the commencement of hostilities between the Albanians at Gussinjé-Plava and the Montenegrins through the interruption of the telegraphic lines in this province, but I shall now endeavour to communicate with your Lordship through the telegraph at Antivari, and I shall take steps to have telegrams arriving there for me forwarded to Scutari.

Encounters of considerable importance have already occurred near Plava, and both sides claim the advantage, although the Montenegrins admit heavy losses, and thus give colour to the Albanian assertions of victory.

Hostilities having been commenced by the Albanians, I believe it would be useless for me to endeavour to induce Prince Nicholas to stop the concentration and march of his forces before Moukhtar Pasha has occupied Gussinjé and restored the authority of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 278.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

Scutari, December 25, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 23rd, I do not believe that the Mahommedans of Gussinjé are deterred from submitting to Montenegro on the ground alleged by the Turkish Ambassador, as the treatment of Mahommedans who have already come under Montenegrin jurisdiction has been exemplary, and the Prince's reputation for humanity stands very high in Albania.

I have, however, taken immediate steps to obtain an assurance from His Highness in the sense suggested.

No. 279.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 334.) *Bucharest, December* 15, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has no doubt noticed from some of my recent despatches (Nos. 318 and 324) that I anticipated considerable difficulties in the way of the completion of the scheme for the purchase of the railways now held by the German Company.

The amendment inserted by the Chamber of Deputies in the original Convention has given rise to immense irritation at Berlin on the part of the German Government, and the bankers representing the Company have intimated that if it is not withdrawn they will consider the negotiations as broken off.

I shall endeavour to give some explanation as to the bearing of this amendment in a separate despatch.

The messages received here from Berlin on the subject have led M. Stourdza, the Finance Minister, to suppose that he was held there to be personally responsible for this turn of affairs, and he has announced, in consequence, his intention to resign office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 280.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 335.) *Bucharest, December* 16, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the debate on the Address in the Senate, Prince Gregory Stourdza attacked the Government in a speech in which he not only expressed publicly his pro-Russian sympathies, but also advocated the formation of the Balkanic League of which so much has been said of late.

He was answered by M. Boerescо, in whose journal, the "Pressa," some remarks have appeared with reference to this discussion, of which I beg leave to inclose a French précis.

Prince Stourdza is a connection of Prince Gortchacow's, and I have had occasion to speak of him to your Lordship in my despatch No. 208 of the 8th September last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Extract from the "Indépendance Roumaine," No. 699.

LA "Pressa" fait ressortir aussi l'importance de la séance de Samedi dans laquelle, à l'occasion du vote de la réponse au Discours du Trône, M. le Prince Grégoire Michel Stourdza a développé le programme du parti Conservateur dont elle donne le résumé suivant:—

"Le Prince Stourdza a dit que les idées politiques du Gouvernment sont un peu hasardeuses. Il critique ensuite la théorie qui, s'appuyant sur ce que nous sommes de race Latine, s'oppose à ce que nous fassions alliance avec les Slaves dont nous sommes entourés. Il a fait ensuite l'apologie de la Russie qui nous a émancipés ainsi que les Chrétiens d'Orient, et dont l'alliance nous a permis de relever le prestige de nos armes.

"Il nous a déclaré que nous devions faire ce qu'on appelle la 'Ligue des Balkans;' c'est-à-dire nous allier avec la Bulgarie, la Serbie, le Monténégro et former une confédération avec ces Etats.

"De quelle alliance a voulu parler M. Stourdza, dans quel but et contre qui? S'il s'agit d'une alliance commerciale et économique, il est évident que le Gouvernement la fera. Si M. Stourdza a voulu parler d'une alliance politique, sera-ce contre la Turquie, contre la Russie, contre l'Autriche? Nous ne voyons dans ce programme aucun but pratique.

"M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a pris la parole pour répondre à M. Stourdza, et a démontré clairement que la politique du Cabinet, beaucoup moins compliquée que celle indiquée par le 'leader' de l'Opposition, se contente d'être purement nationale."

No. 281.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 337. Confidential.) *Bucharest, December* 18, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT TORNIELLI presented this morning his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Prince Charles I.

It appears that only forty-eight hours previous to his arrival at Bucharest information had been received here from Berlin and Vienna leading every one to believe that out of deference to the other Powers, but more particularly to Germany, the Count would be stopped on the way and recommended to go home to fetch his family before proceeding to Bucharest and presenting his credentials.

His well known anti-German proclivities, and the way in which the pro-Russian party, including Baron Fava, the late Italian Representative here, are making capital out of the Railway question to increase the existing animosity against Germany, and indirectly against Austria, leads people here to suppose that Russian influence has brought about the separation of Italy from the other three Powers on the question of recognition.

I understand that Count Tornielli is extremely sanguine on the subject of the degree of influence he will be able to exercise on Roumanian affairs by his coming here just now.

He appears, however, to have felt this step might be interpreted as being too demonstrative, for he told the Foreign Minister that this was by no means the case, and that he recommended Roumania to give full satisfaction to Germany on the railway difficulty.

"Qui s'excuse s'accuse."

One of the other Ministers, to whom I mentioned the observations made to M. Boerescо about the Railway question by Count Tornielli said to me, "I wish I could be sure that he gives the same advice to our political adversaries who oppose with such violence the Convention."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 282.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 338. Confidential.)
Bucharest, December 18, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship having kindly forwarded to me the information received from Berlin, and marked Secret, from which it appears that Prince Bismarck is disposed to side with Russia in the definitive settlement of the Arab-Tabia question, I have the honour to report that similar apprehensions have reached Bucharest from Vienna, coupled with the assurance that the Austrian Cabinet will maintain its previous attitude on this subject.

One cannot help being surprised should this determination of the German Chancellor turn out a reality, as it would be hardly a fair way of treating the interests which are supposed to have attracted importance to Arab Tabia, and which are presumed to be quite as much Austrian, however indirectly so, as Roumanian.

This Principality can never be expected to cope with Russia, or defend either the Dobrudscha or the mouths of the Danube against that Empire without support.

In such a struggle her fate would be sealed, and to avert it timely submission would be the safest course.

It is often said at Vienna that Roumania is a watchman placed to signal any approaching danger.

If this is the case, then the two true reasons for giving Arab-Tabia to Roumania appear to be the following ones :—

To prevent Silistria from becoming a menace and a danger to the possessors of the Dobrudscha.

To give the people here that confidence of which they stand so much in need, that they can rely on Austrian support in preserving the position assigned to them by the Treaty of Berlin.

About a fortnight ago, and before the Railway question resumed its present disagreeable form, General Ghika reported here from St. Petersburgh that he had been told by General von Schweinitz that Germany considered the conclusions of the Technical Commission as regards Arab-Tabia not deserving of support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 283.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 339.)
Bucharest, December 18, 1879.

My Lord,

IT appears hardly of any real advantage to discuss the merits of the controversy between the Roumanian Government and the Berlin bankers, which engrosses entirely public attention at Bucharest to the exclusion of every other topic, and has provoked to such a degree the indignation of the German Government.

A few remarks will, however, I trust, not be considered out of place.

The Convention signed by the Minister of Finance gives evidence that it was always proposed to ask the majority of shareholders to transfer the seat of the Company, not only the seat of the Administration (for on that subject all are agreed), but the domicile, and *eo ipso* the *forum*, from one capital to the other.

According to Articles XXVII and XXVIII of the Convention, this was to be decided at a subsequent meeting of the shareholders, whilst the Chamber, by its amendment, has attempted to secure its discussion at their very first meeting, when the entire contract is to be submitted for the approbation of the shareholders.

It is very much to be regretted that the Roumanian Ministers did not insist on clearing up this point at an earlier stage of the proceedings, which might have saved them from the abuse and unpleasantness to which they are now exposed.

It must be likewise borne in mind that no resolutions of any assembly of shareholders in Germany are legal until they obtain the exequatur of the Tribunal of Commerce, and have been registered in accordance with Article 214 of the Commercial Code of that Empire.

The Commercial Judge ("Handelsrichter") gives his exequatur only to resolutions which have been adopted by a majority of shareholders; should the transfer of domicile come on only at a subsequent meeting, it might happen that such exequatur would be refused after the contract itself had been approved of by a previous general assembly, and after the Roumanian Government had, in the meantime, carried out its own share of the obligations imposed by it.

Such a contingency, it is hoped, is a most unlikely one, but its possibility is to be avoided by all means, for the actual Ministers, and probably the Prince himself, would be held responsible should any fortuitous circumstance deprive Roumania of any of the privileges for which they consider they are paying more than a fair price.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 284.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 340. Confidential.)
Bucharest, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

THE programme of the Opposition in the Roumanian Parliament, as far as it can be ascertained, appears to be as follows :—

To oppose by all means the purchase of the railways from the German Company, and to resist the dictation of Germany on that question, to effect a reconciliation with Russia, give up Arab-Tabia, and abandon all further attempts at recognition.

First and foremost, however, to initiate important changes in the Constitution, and cancel some of the liberties.

In the ranks of the leaders of the Opposition there are persons who were the personal friends of successive German Consuls-General here, of M. Radowitz, M. Pfuel, and of Baron von Alvensleben, men some of whom have been strongly recommended to Prince Charles as Ministers by Germany even since I have been in this country.

Some of them are directors of the German Railway Board, and two, MM. Maiorescо and T. Rosetti, act as paid counsel to that Company. Every one of these takes a prominent and active part in endeavouring to procure the rejection of the Railway Convention patronized by Germany, and these are the men who would, no doubt, assume office were M. Bratiano to fail in trying to satisfy Prince Bismarck.

Prince Charles himself is naturally desirous to see this measure successfully adopted, but he is compelled to conceal his partiality to it, on account of its growing unpopularity, to such a degree that he pays no attention to the attitude of M. Maurogeny, who leads the opposition to the Convention, and whose wife is the Lady in Waiting to the Princess and Her Royal Highness' confidante.

These strange particulars are, I think, deserving of your Lordship's notice in forming an estimate of the conduct of the present Ministers; these are circumstances which I fear have been carefully concealed from Prince Bismarck during the discussion of this ill-omened question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 285.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 27.*)

(No. 341. Very Secret.)
Bucharest, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Emperor of Germany and the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, father of Prince Charles, have each of them sent messages of a confidential nature to His Royal Highness urging and entreating him to do all he can to induce his Ministers to pass the Railway Convention in its original form.

From what has reached me of these communications, about which the greatest secrecy is observed here, and very properly so, I am afraid that the real position of the Prince is very imperfectly understood by the Court of Berlin.

The Austrian Government has likewise recommended the Ministry of M. Bratiano to yield entirely to the German demand.

For my part, I have availed myself of my friendly intercourse with M. Bratiano and with several of his colleagues to show them how wise it would be to give full satisfaction to Prince Bismarck, and to assure them that in my private opinion nothing could be more salutary for the interests of Roumania than to secure, if possible, the friendship and goodwill of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 286.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 27.*)

(No. 343.)
Bucharest, December 20, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Government has received a variety of friendly advice and remonstrances with a view to prepare a course of action which would prove satisfactory to Germany, and after very considerable hesitation it appears to have made up its mind to give way.

This can only be done by restoring the primitive text of Article XXVIII of the original Convention signed by the Minister of Finance at Berlin.

In a previous despatch I have had the honour to explain the difference which the amendment adopted by the Chamber caused in the mode of transfer agreed upon for the transfer of the domicile of the Company.

To facilitate inducing the Chambers to agree in withdrawing the amendment, an application has been made at Berlin for certain facilities likely to diminish the virulent opposition which still renders the passing of the original Convention precarious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 287.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 27.*)

(No. 13. Political.)
Galatz, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11, Political, dated 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that since the 28th November several small parties of Russians have arrived at Galatz; some five or six remain here, but as a rule they have at once taken the night train, and proceeded on towards Bucharest. They are said to be Russian officers in plain clothes, but beyond the fact of their carrying field-glasses there seems to be nothing to lead to this opinion.

On the night of the 15th instant, the railway between Galatz and Reni having been repaired, there arrived at the Galatz station of the Bender line one second-class carriage with Russian officers, and three third-class carriages with sergeants, corporals, and men, the whole in the uniform of the Russian infantry; a Roumanian train similarly composed was waiting for them, and they at once changed into this latter, which left in the direction of Bucharest; the numbers of this detachment would be from 130 to 150.

I am unable to ascertain at present to what point in Roumania this party is directed. I am told that their course lies through the Dobrudscha to the far side of the Balkans, but in such a case it would seem as if the Ismail-Toultcha route would be a more likely choice, and had they gone through Ibraila to Matchin I should probably have had some further news of them, the more so as I have requested the Vice-Consul at Ibraila to let me hear at once in the event of anything of the sort coming to his knowledge. It seems to me more probable that they do not traverse the Dobrudscha but cross the Danube at some point higher up the river.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 27.*)

(No. 813.)
Vienna, December 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I EXPRESSED two days ago a strong opinion to the Turkish Ambassador that upon the question of the cession of Gussinjé the Porte would do well to act as suggested by the Austrian Government, by issuing a Proclamation to the inhabitants warning them that they would be left without support to bear all the consequences to which they would expose themselves by offering resistance to the Prince of Montenegro, within whose territories the district is now included.

All Turkish functionaries should at the same time be withdrawn from Gussinjé, and its formal cession notified by an Ottoman to a Montenegrin Commissioner.

I did not speak to my colleague of the possibility of an agreement being made by which the exchange of Gussinjé against Kutcha Kraina might be effected, for it is tolerably certain that the Prince would not listen to it, and that any discussion upon it would merely lead to a loss of time.

It would, moreover, I believe, be found very difficult to induce Baron Haymerle to join in consenting that the cession of Gussinjé should be made in any manner dependent upon a simultaneous abandonment of Kutcha Kraina, respecting which no representation was ever made to him by the Porte, while it appealed to him to smooth the way in regard to the former district.

Baron Haymerle continues on every occasion to repeat that he does not ask the Porte to do more than I have above indicated, or require it to put the Montenegrins into material possession of the district in question, and Edhem Pasha, agreeing with me that his Government should act in the manner suggested, has strongly recommended the adoption of that course to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 289.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 27.*)

(No. 817.)
Vienna, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I AM informed by Prince Reuss that Baron Haymerle has responded with great goodwill to the request of the German Government that he would use his influence at Bucharest to induce the Roumanian Government to adhere to their engagements on the Railway question.

Baron Haymerle, Prince Reuss says, sees that it is quite for the interest of Austria to make the Roumanians feel the necessity of keeping faith, and he has, consequently, intimated to Prince Charles' Government that he can take no step for carrying out their wish that he would facilitate the recognition by the other Powers so long as they show a disregard for their engagements.

I told my colleague that, according to Mr. White's Report, the Roumanian Government would have had no chance of passing the Railway Bill at all unless they had accepted the amendment, upon which a large majority of the Chamber was united; but this did not, he considered, constitute a justification for the Roumanian Government in not standing firmly by their agreement.

M. Balatchano, the Roumanian Minister, with whom I had some conversation last night, tells me that his Government had been obliged to accept the amendment, in consequence of it having become apparent that they had been tricked into an agreement under which the transfer of the seat of the railway to Bucharest would never be effected, as they now perceive that it would not be sanctioned by the shareholders, and the Roumanians had already suffered so severely from the litigation connected with the railways being conducted in the Prussian Tribunals that they are resolved to do everything in their power to avoid continuing subject to them, as they will be if Berlin is the seat of administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 290.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)

Sophia, December 26, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Austrian Agent received instructions some time ago to recommend, in a friendly manner, to Bulgarian Government admittance of Mahommedan refugees; but as these instructions were sent previous to receipt of his despatch explanatory of reasons of the Prince for arresting the immigration, he is delaying action on them until further orders.

Leading Mussulmans of Sophia informed me to-day that they approve orders given by the Prince. Two months ago they subscribed a sum to enable more than 200 families to return to Turkey who would otherwise have perished from privation.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 291.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

Foreign Office, December 27, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOURS of yesterday.

Either your telegram or mine has been mutilated in transmission. I spoke of the Austrian Agent, you speak of the French. Please repeat your telegram.

No. 292.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

Scutari, December 27, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to my telegram of the 25th, following is a translation of the reply given to me in the Prince's name:—

"His Highness begs you to confirm to your Government the assurance given that the people of Gussinjé will be treated, if they do not delay to surrender, in the most gentle and equitable manner; but if they wait to be attacked they must not expect any mercy.

"This event is on the point of happening, and His Highness prays the Government of Her Majesty the Queen to be good enough to try to prevent useless bloodshed by taking steps with the Porte which we are convinced could, by the issue of a simple order, cause the Treaty of Berlin to be executed as far as concerns the locality in question.

"His Highness will be truly grateful to Her Majesty's Government if, by its intervention, it can prevent bloodshed, which, in spite of ourselves, we are unable to defer or avoid."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 293.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

Scutari, December 28, 1879, 11 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir H. Layard:—

"Although I have taken immediate steps to inform Prince Nicholas of the dispatch of the Commissioner with the Sultan's Proclamation, I think it right to point out that without adequate force Commissioner will not be able to reach Gussinjé, and that arrival of such a force there would be sufficient to settle off-hand all difficulties.

"I do not share the Prince's belief that a simple *bonâ fide* order from the Porte would be obeyed by the Albanians."

(Sent to Foreign Office.)

No. 294.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 797.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, December 27, 1879.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Porte is about to send a Proclamation to the Mussulmans of Gussinjé by a special Commissioner, offering them, if they do not wish to remain under Montenegrin rule, lands in Macedonia, and the means of moving there; and informing them that if they will not accept this offer they will be declared to be no longer subjects of the Sultan, and will be responsible for the consequences.

(Sent to Green.)

No. 295.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 798.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, December 27, 1879.

TURKISH and Greek Commissioners will meet again on Monday to discuss frontier-line.

No. 296.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 800.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, December 28, 6·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Captain Clayton, dated yesterday:—

"The Ferik Pasha has not made an apology, but in the presence of the Vali Samih and the Reform Commissioners he has denied using the words complained of. I will report further by post.

"Will your Lordship be satisfied with this denial?"

No. 297.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 38. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, December 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 10th December last, regarding the administration of justice in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, having lately obtained a copy of the Regulation prescribing the composition and defining the attributes of the Court of Second Instance ("Obergericht"), I have now the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a French translation of the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Regulation for the Organization of a Court of Second Instance for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

SECTION 1. Il est établi provisoirement au chef-lieu du pays un Tribunal de Deuxième et Dernière Instance pour toute la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine.

Il se composera de cinq Conseillers de Cour Supérieure ("Obergerichtsräthe") dont le plus ancien remplira les fonctions de Président, et pour les affaires jugées d'après le Chériat de deux Juges Musulmans compétents en droit (Muftetioch Kadi) ainsi que du personnel nécessaire pour la Chancellerie.

Section 2. La Cour Supérieure aura à connaître en dernier ressort sur requête des jugements rendus par les Tribunaux de Première Instance des sandjaks (Kreisgerichte) en affaires civiles et pénales, ainsi que des décisions rendues par les autorités des kazas ou districts (Bezirksbehörden) agissant comme magistrats dans des causes civiles, et dans délits; enfin dans tous les cas criminels portés d'office par devant la Cour Supérieure sans qu'il y ait eu requête des parties.

Section 3. En sus la Cour Supérieure décide:

1. Des motions et pétitions tendant à faire transférer une cause civile ou une instruction pénale d'une circonscription judiciaire de sandjak à une autre.

2. Des contestations de compétence soulevées pas des Tribunaux appartenant à des circonscriptions différentes et ne pouvant être réglées par les Tribunaux de sandjaks.

3. Des récusations d'un Tribunal ou de son Président.

Section 4. Il appartient à la Cour Supérieure de décider sur les plaintes portées contre des actes officiels, contre des membres de cette Cour, contre des Tribunaux des sandjaks, et des membres de ces mêmes Tribunaux, ainsi que contre les décisions rendues par les autorités des kazas agissant comme magistrats.

Section 5. A la demande du Chef du Gouvernement Local la Cour Supérieure rend son avis sur la publication et la modification des lois, puis sur les demandes de grâce, et jouit du droit de faire des motions à cet effet de son propre chef.

Section 6. La Cour Supérieure a le droit et le devoir de visiter les autorités de sandjaks et de kazas (Kreis- und Bezirksbehörden) agissant comme magistrats, et devra en ce cas s'en tenir aux instructions qui seront données à cet égard.

Section 7. Elle aura à faire passer des examens aux candidats pour les places de Juges et à leur délivrer les brevets de capacité.

Section 8. Elle exercera le pouvoir disciplinaire à l'encontre de tous les employés judiciaires, et elle aura le droit en cas d'urgence de proposer les mutations pour cause de service des dits employés et serviteurs.

Section 9. Le Tribunal de Chériat de Deuxième Instance est incorporé à la Cour Supérieure laquelle juge en dernier ressort des appels interjetés contre les Juges Mahométans des Tribunaux de sandjaks ou par les Kadiliks existant encore.

Section 10. La Cour Supérieure juge en séance de ses cinq Conseillers dans les crimes et affaires de droit civil. Dans les délits et contraventions, en séance de trois Conseillers, dont l'un a la Présidence, avec adjonction d'un greffier. Les rapporteurs du Tribunal de Chériat de Deuxième Instance peuvent être adjoints aux séances de la Cour Supérieure avec voix consultative.

Section 11. Le Tribunal de Chériat de Deuxième Instance juge en séance des deux Juges Musulmans compétents dans les affaires de droit, assistés de trois membres de la classe civilisée de la population Musulmane élus pour deux ans par la commune de Sérajevo, confirmés par le Chef du Gouvernement Local, et exerçant leurs fonctions honoraires sans rétribution. Un Conseiller de la Cour Supérieure avec voix consultative et un greffier Musulman sont adjoints aux délibérations et à la décision du dit Tribunal.

Section 12. Jusqu'à la promulgation d'une nouvelle jurisprudence en droit matériel la Cour Supérieure devra se conformer aux lois existant dans le pays; toutefois dans des cas douteux elle appliquera les lois Austro-Hongroises offrant de l'analogie.

Section 13. La direction de la Cour Supérieure appartiendra au Conseiller le plus élevé en rang, lequel en cas d'absence ou d'empêchement sera remplacé par le Conseiller le suivant en rang. Lorsque ce dernier se trouvera empêché, le Chef du Gouvernement Local aura à décider au sujet du choix du remplaçant et soumettra sa proposition au Ministère commun Impérial et Royal.

Section 14. Au Directeur appartient d'une manière particulière le droit de distribuer les affaires à chaque Conseiller et de nommer un rapporteur suppléant pour

les cas plus importants; il fixe le nombre des séances, leur durée, et le lieu où elles doivent se tenir; il détermine la composition de ces séances et il a le droit de prendre la présidence dans chacune d'elles, les procès-verbaux de ces dernières lui étant toujours soumis. Un règlement disciplinaire contiendra des stipulations détaillées à l'encontre des attachés et gens de service de la Cour Supérieure.

Section 15. En dehors des affaires mentionnées aux paragraphes 2 et 10 il appartiendra à la Cour Supérieure, statuant en séance plenière de ses cinq Conseillers:

(*a.*) De désigner le personnel et les gens de service, à l'exception du Secrétaire du Président (Praesidial Sekretär) et le Directeur Suppléant (Hilfsämterdirektor).

(*b.*) De faire au Chef du Gouvernement Local les propositions pour les nominations et les mutations de divers postes qui relèvent de l'Empereur, du Ministère commun Impérial et Royal, ou du Chef de ce Gouvernement Local.

(*c.*) De déléguer aux différents Tribunaux les Juges Auditeurs faisant partie de la Cour Supérieure.

(*d.*) D'examiner et de régler les affaires de service concernant les employés et serviteurs de la Cour Supérieure.

(*e.*) D'examiner et de régler les questions de changement dans l'organisation de la Cour Supérieure et reconnues comme nécessaires.

(*f.*) De présenter des avis en matière de législation ou des propositions concernant les deux provinces.

(*g.*) De décider sur les actes illégaux qui pourraient être commis par les Tribunaux du pays, lorsque le Chef du Gouvernement Local demandera à cet effet la réunion de la Cour Supérieure au complet. Lorsque pour quelque raison un ou deux Conseillers auront été empêchés d'assister à une séance plénière, le Président ou son suppléant, après s'être entendu avec le chef de la section de la justice, devra pourvoir au remplacement par un des Secrétaires ou par un des Juges de Sérajevo avec voix décisive, afin que la séance puisse avoir lieu au complet.

Section 16. En dehors des cas précités, les affaires mentionnées aux paragraphes 3, 4, et 5 seront jugées en séance tenue par trois Conseillers que nommera le Président ou son remplaçant.

Section 17. Les blâmes à infliger aux Tribunaux, les amendes et les reprimandes que les parties ou leurs répresentants auront à encourir, lorsqu'un jugement à l'occasion d'une affaire civile ou d'un recours les aura provoqués, seront prononcées lors de la séance qui examine la cause en litige.

Section 18. La langue Croato-Serbe sera employée comme langue officielle; en règle elle servira pour les rapports. Les décisions seront écrites en caractères Latins et particulièrement les *procès-verbaux* devront être rédigés en cette langue. Pour la correspondance avec le Gouvernement Local (Landes-Regierung), avec les autorités militaires, et avec les autorités civiles de l'Autriche-Hongrie, à l'exception de celles de la Croatie et de la Slavonie, on utilisera la langue Allemande, laquelle pourra aussi être employée dans la correspondance avec les Tribunaux de sandjaks.

Section 19. Toutes les pièces émanant de la Cour Supérieure doivent être suivies de la mention, "Das obergericht für Bosnien und Herzegovina," ou bien par les mêmes paroles en Croato-Serbe, et de plus elles devront être signées par le Directeur ou son substitut, ou bien sur l'autorisation du Conseiller-Directeur pour le Présidens de la séance.

Les jugements porteront comme entête ces mots en langue Croato-Serbe: "Vrhovni sud za Bosnu i Herzegovinu," et doivent être signés par un des Conseillers de la séance où le jugement aura été prononcé.

Section 20. Le sceau de la Cour Supérieure portera les armes de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique avec l'inscription "Vrhovni sud za Bosnu i Herzegovinu."

Section 21. Tous les jugements seront transmis et signifiés aux parties par les soins des Tribunaux de sandjaks et des autorités de districts.

Section 22. Des dispositions ultérieures seront contenues dans des instructions que les Tribunaux recevront.

Section 23. La composition de la Cour Supérieure est contenue dans le Tableau ci-annexé.

(Signé) WURTEMBERG, *Feld-Zeugm.*

Sérajevo, le 17 *Juillet*, 1879.

Composition du Personnel de la Cour Supérieure à Sérajevo pour la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine.

No.	Caractère de l'Emploi.	Rang.	Salaire.	Pour Logement.	Supplément.	Traitement Entier.	Somme Totale.
			Fl.	Fl.	Fl.	Fl.	Fl.
1	Conseiller	VI	3,000	600	1,000	4,600	
1	"	VI	3,000	600	800	4,400	
1	"	VI	2,400	600	800	3,800	
1	"	VI	2,400	600	800	3,800	
1	"	VI	2,400	600	400	2,000	
1	Secrétaire	VIII	1,400	200	300	1,500	31,100
1	Adjoint	IX	1,000	200	300	800	
1	Auditeur	XI	500	..	..	1,600	
1	Mufetiche	..	1,600	..	..	1,000	
1	Kadi	..	1,000	..	300	1,400	
1	Sous-Directeur	IX	900	200	200	900	
1	Commis de Bureau ..	XI	600	100	..	800	
1	Ferrailla pour Chériat ..	..	800	..	200	1,100	
2	Domestiques	..	1,200	..	..	..	3,200
	Voyages et frais divers ..	..	..	..	..	..	34,300
	Somme totale . ..	..	..	..	..	..	

Il n'y a que le Conseiller faisant fonctions de Président, ainsi que le Juge de Chériat, qui seront tenus de travailler dans les bureaux; les autres Conseillers travailleront à domicile.

No. 298.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 29.*)

(No. 305.) *Athens, December* 16, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 292 of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship Protocol No. 8 of the Conference held at Constantinople on the Greek Frontier question on the 29th October, as published in the "Messager d'Athènes" of the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(For Mr. Corbett),
(Signed) AUG. H. MOUNSEY.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of December 17, 1879.

Protocole No. 8.—Séance du $\frac{17}{29}$ *Octobre*, 1879.

Présents :

Pour la Turquie—
Son Altesse Safvet Pacha.
Son Excellence Sawas Pacha.
Son Excellence Ali Saïb Pacha.

Pour la Grèce—
Son Excellence M. A. G. Coundouriotis.
Son Excellence M. Bräilas Armény.
Son Excellence M. Pano Colocotroni.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure après-midi.

Les Protocoles Nos. 6 et 7 sont adoptés.

Son Excellence M. Bräilas donne lecture du Mémoire dont nous avons déjà reproduit le texte.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha donne, de son côté, lecture du document en réponse au Mémoire lu et déposé dans la dernière séance par leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes.

Son Excellence M. Bräilas, prenant la parole, dit que s'il a bien saisi l'esprit du document dont il vient d'entendre lecture, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes sont invités à retirer la ligne qu'ils ont eu l'honneur de présenter, et à discuter la ligne de Berlin telle que leurs honorables collègues l'entendent. Quant au premier point, son Excellence répond que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ne peuvent pas donner suite à l'invitation de leurs collègues; ce n'est pas dans leurs habitudes; quant au second point à savoir de discuter la ligne en répondant au Mémoire de leurs collègues, son Excellence croit que dans le Mémoire qu'elle a eu l'honneur de lire aujourd'hui il y a une réponse à tout ce qu'il y a d'essentiel dans le Mémoire Ottoman. Si, toutefois, continue son Excellence M. Bräilas, MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans insistent, il n'a aucune difficulté de répéter ce qui est déjà dit dans le Mémoire, c'est-à-dire que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes présentent leurs lignes comme un projet susceptible de discussion.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait remarquer que le but principal du document lu par son Altesse Safvet Pacha est de rechercher quelle est la vraie ligne qui résulte des indications du Protocole No. 13. Jusqu'à présent plusieurs opinions se sont produites à cet égard. Les uns croient que cette ligne devrait suivre le thalweg des deux fleuves; les autres, les hauteurs qui bornent les deux vallées. Ce dernier principe ayant été posé par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, il resterait à savoir si ce sont les éminences méridionales des vallées qui doivent être considérées comme formant la ligne résultant des indications du Protocole No. 13.

"Le Mémoire Ottoman," continue son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "constate ensuite que le tracé de MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ne suit aucune de ces trois lignes, c'est-à-dire ni le thalweg, ni les éminences sud, ni les éminences nord, et se porte, au contraire, arbitrairement vers le nord, et parcourt un tracé composé de monts et de fleuves qui n'ont point été visés par le Protocole No. 13, et qui sont tout-à-fait en dehors des limites que le Congrès de Berlin a tracées aux aspirations de la Grèce. C'est pourquoi les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont cru devoir prier leurs honorables collègues de vouloir bien abandonner une ligne qui est étrangère aux indications du Protocole, et, par conséquent, au sujet des négociations actuelles pour entrer en discussion sur la vraie ligne de Berlin. "C'est là," ajoute Sawas Pacha, "la substance de notre Mémoire." Quant au document lu par son Excellence M. Bräilas, son Excellence Sawas Pacha dit qu'il ne cherchera pas à y répondre aujourd'hui même, mais qu'il ne saurait s'empêcher de relever une de ses phrases qui l'a frappé, et qui pourrait faire croire qu'en présentant des objections contre la ligne générale des vallées de Pénéus, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont manqué de respect envers les Puissances. "Loin de nous," dit Sawas Pacha, "une pareille pensée."

Le Congrès en examinant la proposition des Délégués envoyés à Berlin par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique, ne l'a pas examinée au même titre que les autres questions soumises à ses délibérations, et qu'il a décidées et résolues. Son Excellence M. Waddington, promoteur de la recommendation concernant la question Hellénique, a présenté à l'Aréopage Européen un avis, et non pas une proposition destinée à être soumise au vote de la Haute Assemblée, et la discussion qui s'est engagée à ce sujet a démontré jusqu'à l'évidence que le Congrès a formulé un simple vœu dont l'exécution a été, comme de nature, laissée à l'entente directe des deux Etats intéressés. S'il en était autrement, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans à Berlin auraient exposé toutes les considérations propres à éclairer la Haute Assemblée, et à lui permettre de se former en connaissance de cause une juste et exacte opinion sur la portée et les conséquences des indications géographiques soumises au Congrès. Cela n'a pas eu lieu et les termes dans lesquels les deux Gouvernements ont été invités à s'entendre sur une rectification de frontières le prouvent suffisamment.

"En effet," dit son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "les Puissances nous ont invités à nous entendre; c'est-à-dire à faire ici ce qui n'a pas été fait à Berlin, à discuter la ligne, et dire contradictoirement ce que chacun de nous croit être la vérité soit en faveur soit contre cette ligne. Il est donc clair que les illustres hommes d'Etat qui ont pris part au Congrès de Berlin, et qui sont si attentifs aujourd'hui sur ce qui se passe au sein de cette Conférence, sont animés du sincère désir de se former une juste opinion basée sur les débats actuels."

"Or," poursuit son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "en faisant connaître la vérité sur la ligne suggérée à Berlin, nous proclamons une nouvelle fois notre déférence envers les Puissances, notre profond respect pour l'autorité qui s'attache à leur vœu, et notre entière confiance en leurs sentiments de justice et d'équité. En agissant autrement,

les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans seraient censés supposer dans l'esprit des Cabinets Européens une arrière-pensée, pensée de partialité et de prévention, ce qui certes serait de nature à les offenser."

M. Colocotroni répond que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ne peuvent d'aucune manière retirer la ligne qu'ils ont eu l'honneur de proposer, car d'après leur opinion, c'est la ligne de Berlin. Ils n'entreront pas pour le moment dans les détails de cette ligne. Ils le feront lorsque l'occasion s'en présentera. Ils se bornent à la proposer afin d'amener une discussion. Quant aux idées émises par son Excellence Sawas Pacha sur les trois lignes possibles entre les deux vallées, il fait remarquer que lui aussi n'a pas d'opinion différente sur la manière dont on pourrait interpréter les indications du Protocole, et il fait voir à son Excellence le commencement d'un Mémoire rédigé par lui et ainsi conçu :—

"Entre les deux vallées indiquées au Protocole No. 13, il n'y a que trois lignes possibles: (1) ou bien il faut prendre la ligne centrale de la vallée, c'est-à-dire le thalweg des deux fleuves, le Pénée et le Calamas; (2) ou bien il faut tracer une ligne sur la sommité méridionale qui borde la vallée; (3) ou bien il faut tracer cette ligne sur la sommité septentrionale."

La ligne méridionale se réduit à la frontière actuelle, et de plus elle ne peut pas donner une ligne continue.

Le thalweg est combattu par les arguments du Mémoire Ottoman et par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes. Nous proposons donc notre ligne comme ligne septentrionale, qui diffère peu sur le point terminus du côté de la Mer Ionienne.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas, prenant la parole, dit qu'il ne doit pas laisser passer sous silence quelques observations de son Excellence Sawas Pacha. Il n'a jamais, dit-il, douté du respect que la Sublime Porte professe pour les décisions et les opinions de la Haute Assemblée de Berlin; il apprécie les sentiments de Sawas Pacha à ce sujet et s'y associe pleinement; il regrette qu'une phrase de la Déclaration Hellénique ait pu donner lieu à des malentendus, et provoquer les observations de son Excellence, car les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes n'ont jamais eu l'idée d'attribuer à leurs honorables collègues un manque d'égard intentionnel.

Passant ensuite à un autre ordre d'idées, son Excellence M. Braïlas dit qu'il désire arrêter l'attention des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans sur un passage de leur Mémoire qui semblerait vouloir rendre le Gouvernement Hellénique responsable du retard si long et si regrettable qu'a essuyé l'exécution du Traité de Berlin. "Malheureusement," dit son Excellence, "il est vrai qu'il y a presque dix-huit mois que le Traité de Berlin a été signé et ratifié, et cependant la partie concernant la Grèce n'a pas, jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est, reçu son exécution." Son Excellence M. Braïlas avoue qu'il ne s'attendait pas au reproche qu'on vient de faire.

Il ajoute qu'il ne fera pas l'historique de tout ce qui a eu lieu avant, pendant, et après la Conférence de Preveza. On se rappelle bien cependant qu'après des ajournements réitérés on a enfin obtenu la nomination des Commissaires Ottomans. Ceux-ci devaient se réunir dans un endroit qu'on n'a jamais pu découvrir sur aucune carte. Enfin, lorsque les travaux de la Commission ont commencé à Preveza, il s'est produit la même situation que celle d'aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire il y a eu d'un côté une ligne qui plus ou moins répondait à l'avis exprimé à Berlin, et, de l'autre côté, une autre ligne qui était bien loin de celle indiquée par le Protocole No. 13.

Son Excellence voit avec peine que les mêmes faits se sont reproduits pendant les négociations actuelles, et que les deux parties se trouvent encore en face l'une de l'autre sans qu'il y ait pour le moment un grand espoir de rapprochement. "Nous vous proposons," ajoute M. Braïlas, "une ligne que nous nous réservons d'expliquer en détail et de justifier. Vos Excellences ont-elles une ligne à nous proposer?" D'après son Excellence, au lieu de rester dans des considérations générales on devrait s'occuper de quelque chose de plus pratique; on devrait entrer dans la discussion de la ligne proposée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes conjointement avec celle que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans devraient proposer. C'est là la seule manière de prouver qu'on ne veut pas de retard, et qu'on désire sincèrement s'entendre.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha repousse le reproche qui est fait aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans d'avoir voulu et de vouloir encore retarder la solution de la question qui fait l'objet des négociations présentes. Les lenteurs qu'on accuse la Sublime Porte d'avoir apportées à la nomination des Commissaires de Preveza provenaient uniquement, dit son Altesse, de circonstances indépendantes de la volonté du Gouvernement Ottoman, et des graves préoccupations qu'il avait à cette époque pour des questions d'un caractère très-urgent résultant du Traité de Berlin. Néanmoins, tout le monde reconnaîtra que la Sublime Porte a fait ce qui était en son pouvoir pour désigner ses

Commissaires le plus promptement possible. Quant à la non-réussite des travaux des Conférences premières, elle est due aux Commissaires Hellènes qui ont rompu les négociations en se retirant. Aujourd'hui, ajoute son Altesse Safvet Pacha, ce n'est que par une discussion libre de la véritable ligne de Berlin qu'on peut arriver à un résultat. Le but de la rectification des frontières étant d'établir entre les deux Etats des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont cru devoir, sur l'insistance de leurs honorables collègues, présenter les objections et les inconvenients qui, à leurs yeux, résulteraient de l'adoption des Vallées de Calamas et du Pénéus comme ligne-frontière entre la Turquie et la Grèce; au lieu de répondre à ces objections, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont adopté un tracé qui s'écarte des deux vallées. Cet écart a paru si grand aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans qu'ils ont senti la nécessité de prier leurs collègues de retirer leur ligne afin de pouvoir entamer la discussion sur la vraie ligne de Berlin. Son Altesse pense que c'est sur cette base qu'on pourra arriver à l'entente si désirée, et elle adjure les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes de répondre aux objections exposées par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, et entrer ainsi dans une voie de nature à faciliter les négociations.

Son Excellence M. Condouriotis fait observer que pour entrer en matière il faut avoir un point de départ déterminé. Ce point, dit-il, n'existe pas, attendu que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'ont pas cru devoir proposer à leur tour une ligne qui puisse être comparée à celle proposée par leurs collègues Helléniques.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha répète que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont fait connaître les inconvénients que présente la ligne recommandée par le Congrès de Berlin, et que c'est maintenant à leurs collègues Hellènes de répondre à leurs objections.

M. Colocotroni dit que pour comprendre le soi-disant écart de la ligne proposée, il faut avoir une autre ligne. Il prie, dès lors, leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de faire connaître leur ligne.

Son Excellence M. Condouriotis, reprenant la parole, constate avec regret qu'on ne pourra rien démontrer tant que ses collègues Ottomans se refusent de proposer leur ligne.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, répondant au reproche fait par son Excellence M. Braïlas quant aux lenteurs attribuées au Gouvernement Impérial pour la nomination de ses Commissaires à Preveza, dit que son Altesse Safvet Pacha a donné à ce sujet les explications les plus satisfaisantes sur lesquelles il n'a pas à revenir; mais il tient à constater que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne sauraient être tenus responsables des retards qu'ont éprouvé, et qu'éprouvent malheureusement encore, les négociations actuelles.

Tous ces retards proviennent du fait de leurs collègues Helléniques qui ont cru même, à diverses reprises, devoir référer à leur Gouvernement. "Nous ne pouvions pas," continue Sawas Pacha, "accepter le terrain sur lequel nous plaçait la première déclaration de nos honorables collègues. Cette déclaration a soulevé l'incident qui a occupé nos six premières séances et la discussion qu'il a provoquée a tracé une procédure que nous sommes tenus de suivre.

"En effet, toutes les fois que nous disions à nos honorables collègues que nous voulions discuter la ligne de Berlin, ils nous déclaraient qu'ils étaient prêts à ne pas se départir de la voie que nous leur aurions ouverte et qu'ils répondraient à nos arguments par des arguments analogues. Eh bien," dit Sawas Pacha, "nous avons fait des observations sur la ligne générale résultant des deux vallées. Ces observations sont peut-être mauvaises, mais nous les soutiendrons jusqu'à preuve du contraire. Or, pour être conséquents avec leurs propres déclarations, MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques devaient répondre à nos objections en opposant à nos arguments des arguments analogues. Sans le faire, nos honorables collègues nous proposent une ligne qui s'écarte de celle sur laquelle nos objections portaient et ils pensent les avoir détruits par la transposition qu'ils ont fait subir à la ligne de Berlin en lui substituant une ligne nouvelle et tout-à-fait étrangère au Protocole. Cependant, nous affirmons que cette transposition aggrave au contraire les inconvénients que nous avons signalés. Nous prions donc de nouveau leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques de répondre à nos observations afin que la discussion générale puisse s'engager sur la vraie ligne des vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus."

M. Colocotroni fait observer à son Excellence Sawas Pacha que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes n'ont référé à leur Gouvernement que deux fois seulement et que ce recours leur a été imposé par les déclarations Ottomanes.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas dit qu'après l'argumentation de son honorable collègue, Sawas Pacha, on dirait que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont tracé leur ligne d'une

manière arbitraire et capricieuse. C'est là préjuger la question. Lorsque la discussion des détails aura lieu, ils prouveront qu'ils ont de bonnes raisons pour justifier même ce qui peut paraître un écart de la ligne de Berlin. Son Excellence a entendu dire encore que la ligne du Congrès est la ligne du thalweg. Elle se permet de faire observer que dans le Protocole il n'est pas question de thalweg, mais bien de deux vallées, et que c'est d'après ces deux vallées que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont tracé leur ligne.

Quant à l'autre reproche de son Excellence Sawas Pacha, c'est-à-dire que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes n'ont pas répondu aux arguments du Mémoire Ottoman par des arguments analogues, M. Braïlas se permet de faire observer que dans le Mémoire qu'il vient d'avoir l'honneur de lire il y a une réfutation directe et radicale de toutes les observations contenues dans le Mémoire de la Porte, puisqu'on y démontre qu'elles pèchent par la base.

L'argumentation du Mémoire Ottoman serait bonne si la ligne indiquée dans le Protocole était celle du thalweg. C'est aussi une erreur de croire que les Puissances aient dit à la Turquie et à la Grèce, "négociez," et puis nous verrons et nous déciderons. Les membres du Congrès ont pensé qu'il fallait proposer aux deux Etats quelque chose comme sujet de discussion et de là l'indication d'une ligne générale entre deux vallées. Et cette indication a été faite en pleine connaissance de cause et après des études spéciales et des renseignements précis et positifs. Son Excellence répète qu'on ne peut entrer dans l'examen des lignes qu'en les comparant.

C'est de cette manière seulement qu'on pourra s'entendre. "Quant au reproche qu'on nous adresse," dit son Excellence M. Braïlas, "d'avoir proposé notre ligne avant d'avoir entendu le Mémoire de nos honorables collègues, ce reproche aussi n'est pas fondé; car dans la séance précédente vous nous avez dit," poursuit M. Braïlas, "que vous réfléchiriez pour vous décider à discuter ou non la ligne du Protocole, de sorte que nous ne savions pas ce que vous alliez faire.

"Nous avons pensé que vous alliez nous proposer une ligne et voilà pourquoi nous vous avons proposé la nôtre. Est-elle bonne ou mauvaise, ce n'est pas encore le moment de décider cette question. Si vous nous faites l'honneur de nous proposer votre ligne, nous pourrons comparer les deux et en adopter celle qui présente le plus d'avantage et le moins d'inconvénients."

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha pense qu'une discussion régulière est seule faite pour amener les Plénipotentiaires des deux pays à constater si la ligne des deux vallées est bonne ou mauvaise.

Il fait remarquer de nouveau que, se rendant au désir de leurs honorables collègues, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont préparé un travail sur la situation qui serait créée à l'Epire et à la Thessalie par l'adoption des deux vallées comme ligne-frontière. Ce travail s'est croisé avec le Mémoire par lequel des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont proposé leur ligne. Aussi, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont-ils cru devoir répondre à ce Mémoire en priant leurs honorables collègues d'abandonner leur ligne pour entrer dans l'examen des objections soulevées contre les deux vallées.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, répondant à son honorable collègue, M. Braïlas, dit qu'il ne se serait jamais permis de qualifier de *capricieuse* la ligne proposée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques, mais que le mot "arbitraire" employé par son Excellence rend exactement la pensée des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, puisqu'ils considèrent cette ligne comme n'ayant rien de commun avec celle suggérée à Berlin, et qu'ils déclarent ne pouvoir en aucun cas la prendre comme base et point de départ de discussion. Quant à la question du thalweg et des éminences bornant les deux vallées, Sawas Pacha répète que la science du droit général et international s'est chargée de la trancher.

Son Excellence constate ensuite que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont soutenu et continuent à soutenir que leurs honorables collègues ont décliné et déclinent de répondre argument par argument au Mémoire de la Sublime Porte, le limitant à dire qu'ils en ont attaqué la base, ce qu'ils croient, en effet, avoir fait en proposant une ligne nouvelle et arbitraire, englobant toute la Thessalie, toute l'Epire et une partie considérable de la Tosquarie. "En d'autres termes," poursuit son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "nos honorables collègues nous disent: 'Vous avez démontré les inconvénients que présentait une ligne coupant en deux l'Epire et la Thessalie. Vos arguments sont irréfutables et nous déclinons de les combattre, mais nous déroutons complétement votre argumentation en tournant, pour ainsi dire, la position que vous vous êtes chargés de fortifier. Du moment que vous avez fait de graves objections contre la ligne de Berlin et que la situation qui serait créée aux provinces par l'adoption de cette ligne ne vous convient pas, nous vous proposons une ligne par laquelle

nous vous demandons tout simplement la totalité des deux provinces et d'une partie d'une troisième, anéantissant ainsi tous vos raisonnements et vous démontrant par là le danger auquel vous êtes exposés en critiquant la ligne de Berlin.'

"Ce n'est pas la première fois," continue son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "que le royaume limitrophe se sert de ce système de revendications, et le Congrès de Berlin s'est trouvé déjà dans le cas de rejeter de pareilles prétentions en indiquant à la Grèce les limites que ses aspirations ne doivent pas dépasser. Du reste," dit Sawas, "les inconvénients signalés dans le Mémoire Ottoman n'amènent pas comme conséquence logique que la rectification de frontières souhaitée deviendrait impossible sans la mutilation que l'on propose.

"Mais bien que la ligne de Berlin doit être modifiée de façon à laisser à la Turquie des débouchés et des plaines lui permettant de conserver le reste de ses possessions et permettant également à ses populations de vivre sous le soleil et de ne point désespérer de toute prospérité et de toute civilisation.

"Dans leur Mémoire," ajoute Sawas Pacha, "les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont produit des faits et ont parlé de ports, de vallées, d'agriculture, d'élève de bétail, et de conditions économiques en spécifiant chaque considération et en la soutenant par de sérieux arguments. Leurs honorables collègues y ont répondu par une dénégation absolue et générale.

"D'après ce système affirmer suffirait pour prouver. Sawas Pacha dit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'ont pas de difficulté à adopter le même système et à affirmer à leur tour, que les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques n'ont nullement combattu le Mémoire de la Sublime Porte qui subsiste dans son entier, et que leur réponse et la ligne proposée par eux portent à faux par cela même qu'elles sont complétement étrangères à l'objet et au but des délibérations actuelles.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha se résume: "Nos honorables collègues," dit-il, "nous demandent que nous opposions une ligne à celle qu'ils nous ont fait l'honneur de nous présenter et pensent que c'est en comparant ces deux lignes que nous parviendrons à trouver celle qui offre le plus d'avantages et le moins d'inconvénients. A cette demande, nous déclarons de nouveau que nous n'avons pas de ligne et qu'ayant dit et répété en face de l'Europe que nous ne devions discuter que la ligne de Berlin, nous commettrions, en nous départant de cette voie, une inconséquence flagrante dont nous ne voulons pas encourir le blâme."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas fait observer que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne peuvent pas dire aux Plénipotentiaires Hellènes: retirez votre ligne, nous vous proposerons la nôtre, sans cela nous ne vous proposerons rien, car ce serait éviter toute discussion. Son Excellence reconnaît que dans un seul point la ligne proposée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes s'écarte de celle du Protocole, mais ce point sera examiné pendant la discussion, et les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes espèrent convaincre leurs collègues que cet écart est justifié par des raisons de stable et réciproque sécurité.

Quant aux autres arguments de son Excellence Sawas Pacha, M. Braïlas fait remarquer qu'il y a déjà répondu d'avance ayant fait voir que tous les inconvénients énumérés dans le Mémoire Ottoman et dans le discours de son Excellence Sawas Pacha découlent d'une hypothèse qui n'est d'accord ni avec la lettre, ni avec l'esprit du Protocole; et il finit en disant qu'il est indispensable pour la marche régulière des travaux entre les deux Etats que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans proposent une ligne.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, revenant sur le document lu au commencement de la séance par son Altesse Safvet Pacha, dit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans entendaient et entendent par ce document ramener le tracé proposé par leurs honorables collègues à la véritable ligne recommandée à Berlin, mais que devant l'affirmation répétée des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes que ce tracé est le même que celui qui résulte des indications du Protocole No. 13, ils n'insisteront pas davantage pour aujourd'hui afin de ne point blesser par une affirmation contraire leurs honorables collègues sur l'écart qu'ils croient exister entre les deux lignes, se réservant de les faire étudier à nouveau par les officiers d'Etat-Major attachés à la Délégation Ottomane.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha ajoute que ses collègues et lui auront l'honneur de communiquer à la prochaine séance à leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes le résultat de cette étude ainsi que le tracé de la vraie ligne de Berlin que les deux parties sont convenues de prendre comme bases premières de leurs négociations, afin de l'adopter ou de la modifier suivant qu'après discussion elle leur paraîtra destinée ou non à établir entre les deux pays des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité.

La séance est levée à 3 heures, et la prochaine réunion est fixée à Mercredi, 31 Octobre / 5 Novembre à 1 heure après-midi.

(Signé) SAFVET.
ALI SAÏB.
SAWAS.
A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.
BRAÏLAS ARMÉNI.
PANO COLOCOTRONI.

No. 299.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 307. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 17, 1879.*

AT an interview which I had with M. Delyanni on the 14th instant, I asked him if the expected meeting of the Frontier Conference had taken place on the previous day.

His Excellency replied by showing me a telegram from M. Coundouriotis, stating that he had been informed by the Porte that the meeting in question had been put off for "certain reasons" for a week.

M. Delyanni seemed to be much annoyed at this news, and said that his Government could not consent to further delay. They were convinced that no solution of the question would result from the Conference, and they felt that they were becoming the laughing-stock of Europe ("la risée de l'Europe") by allowing their Commissioners to remain longer at Constantinople.

My French colleague, who saw M. Delyanni later on the same day, informs me that his Excellency told him that if any further delay took place in the meeting of the Conference he would be obliged to recall the Greek Commissioners.

M. Tissot adds, confidentially, that he strongly advised M. Delyanni not to carry this menace into effect.

I have, &c.
(For Mr. Corbett),
(Signed) AUG. H. MOUNSEY.

No. 300.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 26. Consular.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel, giving an account of a serious mutiny which has occurred among the 14th Drujina at Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 300.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Sir, *Rustchuk, November 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that about a fortnight ago a rather serious mutiny took place here amongst the soldiers of the 14th Drujina.

I heard of it at the time, but as they selected four sergeants by lot and flogged them severely I thought it was merely an every-day affair and not deserving of notice, especially as I was told that the cause of the mutiny was the tyranny of an officer.

It now appears to have been far more serious than we thought, as a Commission of Inquiry has been sitting ever since and have not yet arrived at a decision, and I am informed that the original cause of dissatisfaction is the non-payment of the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 301.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 471. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, December 23, 1879.*

MY French and German colleagues have, I believe, both made some observations to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the hasty manner in which the Italian Government, after acting in concert with France, Germany, and England, separated itself from those Governments and proceeded suddenly to establish diplomatic relations with Roumania. The German Government consider that the difficulties of arranging the Railway question with Roumania have been much increased by the isolated action of Italy.

I cannot help fancying that if the real truth were known it would turn out that their precipitate determination is to be traced (1) to the presence in the Cabinet of M. Depretis, who all along has been an earnest advocate for recognizing immediately the Roumanian Government, and (2) to Count Tornielli's own urgency. He has, I am told, left the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no peace upon this question.

Count Maffei was absent when the communication was made to M. Esarco, as reported in my despatch No. 464 of the 3rd instant, and he asserts that if he had been present he would have insisted on communicating with the other Powers before the final step was taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 302.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 472. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, December 23, 1879.*

COUNT MAFFEI informed me very confidentially, in a conversation I had with him the day before yesterday, that Baron Haymerle had made some observations to Count Robillant (which the latter had reported in a private letter) respecting the language and proceedings of Count Tornielli at Belgrade.

Count Maffei began by stating that the relations between the Italian and Austro-Hungarian Governments were now most satisfactory, and that in order to keep them so it had been agreed that if any matter of delicacy arose it should be treated in a frank and loyal manner on both sides.

Acting in this spirit, Baron Haymerle had told Count Robillant that he would not conceal from him that he had just ground for complaint against Count Tornielli, who had been urging M. Ristich to engage the Servian Government to take part against Austria in the event of a war, and speaking in such a manner as to leave the impression that a war between Austria and Italy was a thing of not unlikely occurrence.

Count Robillant, Count Maffei said, had made the best defence he could for Count Tornielli, urging that the reports which had been received of his language were probably greatly exaggerated, if not altogether unfounded; that allowance must be made for Count Tornielli's individual opinions, &c.; and adding that if he had indeed spoken in any way in the sense attributed to him, he (Count Robillant) could give the most positive assurance that it was entirely opposed to the views and feelings of his Government, who desired nothing more than the maintenance of the most cordial relations with Austria.

Baron Haymerle had insisted, however, upon the accuracy of the reports he had received, saying that they had been confirmed from other sources, and upon Count Robillant remarking that, seeing the intimacy now existing between the Austrian and German Governments, the confirmation had, perhaps, come from the latter Government, in which case the information should be received with caution, because Count Tornielli was not a particular favourite at Berlin, Baron Haymerle replied in a rather abrupt tone that the confirmation did not come from the German Government at all, but from one of the Western Powers.

Count Maffei, referring to some inquiries I had made of him respecting Count Tornielli's proceedings, as reported in my despatch No. 428, Confidential, of the 7th ultimo, said he presumed that the reports of the Austrian Government might have been confirmed by the reports of the British Minister at Belgrade.

I told Count Maffei that Prince Wrede, the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, had called upon me about a week before, and said he had received a despatch from his Government relating to Count Tornielli's proceedings at Belgrade, and had asked me what I had heard of them; that I had told Prince Wrede the substance of what had been reported to Her Majesty's Government, of the inquiries I had made of him (Count Maffei) upon the subject, and the reply which I had received; that I had further told him of the telegram from Count Tornielli which Count Maffei had read to me, as reported in my despatch No. 447, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, saying that he was at liberty to report all this to his Government, as well as my own impression, if he thought it worth while, as to what had occurred, and which was to the following effect, viz.: that, knowing Count Tornielli and his political ideas as I do, it was impossible for me to believe that there was no foundation whatever for the language attributed to him; he must have said something to justify these reports; but M. Ristich, on his side, in order to gain credit for his answer, may perhaps have magnified Count Tornielli's overtures; but however this might be, I could not for a moment suppose that Count Tornielli had been instructed by his Government to speak in any such sense, and that I thought it quite likely that he had made no report whatever of having done so.

Count Maffei thanked me for what I had said to Prince Wrede, who, he informed me, had likewise spoken to him respecting Count Tornielli's proceedings, adding that the German Ambassador had also touched upon the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 303.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 824.) *Vienna, December 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

A CIRCULAR from the Porte, of which a copy will have been already received by your Lordship, has been communicated by the Turkish Ambassador to Baron Haymerle, protesting against the measures adopted by the Bulgarian Government in reference to the Mahommedan natives of the Principality who wish to return to their homes.

His Excellency says that he proposes addressing a representation to the Bulgarian Government on behalf of these unfortunate people, intimating that while the Austrian Government recognize the difficulty of providing for a large number of destitute families, they cannot admit that formalities such as those about the visa of passports can with any justice be resorted to for the purpose of excluding them.

He proposes, therefore, that a Turkish and Bulgarian Commissioner should be appointed to proceed to the frontier, where they can quickly and easily ascertain whether those proposing to re-enter the Principality are entitled to do so or not.

I said that I had no doubt of the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to join in making a representation in favour of the returning refugees. It seems, under existing circumstances, little likely that there were among them many except natives of Bulgaria anxious to return to their homes, and even if these persons were destitute, this fact would not justify the Bulgarian Government in refusing to admit them or in throwing the cost of their maintenance upon a neighbouring province not better provided with means than the Principality.

A considerable proportion of the refugees no doubt are the lawful owners of property upon which they could maintain themselves if it was restored to them, but the return of these inconvenient claimants cannot be desired by the present occupiers.

The XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin stated that a Turco-Bulgarian Commission was to be formed to regulate questions concerning the property of the Porte and of private individuals, and, though it has up to this time been a dead letter, it might, I believe, still be acted upon with advantage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 304.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 826.) *Vienna, December 23, 1879.*

My Lord,

EDHEM PASHA has communicated to Baron Haymerle a very lengthy telegram from Sawas Pasha upon the question of the cession of Gussinjé, reiterating the determination of the Porte to comply fully with the provisions of the Treaty, and explaining that the delay which had taken place had resulted from the difficulty in overcoming the opposition of the populations, which the Sultan was most anxious to remove in order to avert the bloodshed that would occur if the mountaineers offered an armed resistance to the Montenegrin occupation.

Baron Haymerle tells me that he has answered this communication by again urging the Porte to lose no more time in handing a formal act of cession to the Prince, and in notifying to the people of Gussinjé that they are no longer the subjects of the Sultan. This is, he says, all that His Majesty is called upon to do, and though of course it will be fortunate if his influence over the people is sufficient to prevent their resisting the Montenegrin occupation, the essential point now is that there should be no further delay in the Sultan's renunciation of the districts being officially notified.

I understood from Baron Haymerle that he had again recommended the Prince to have patience, and not precipitately to attempt the forcible occupation of the country.

I said that your Lordship had directed Sir Henry Layard to support the representations of the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in urging the Porte to make the official cession of Gussinjé, but I thought that the immediate danger of an attempt by Montenegro to take possession of it by force was hardly so great as Baron Haymerle imagined at a season when the snow must render any such undertaking nearly impracticable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 305.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 828.) *Vienna, December 25, 1879.*

My Lord,

M. NOVIKOW, the Russian Ambassador, left Vienna three days ago upon a hurried summons to St. Petersburgh.

The newspapers announced Prince Labanoff's arrival here about the same time, but neither Baron Haymerle nor any one that I know of appears to have seen him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 306.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 631. Secret.) *Berlin, December 25, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE present state of the Roumanian Railway question at Berlin is as follows:—

While MM. de Radowitz, Hausemann, and Bleichröder are labouring to convince the Roumanian Agent, M. Liteano, that his Government have not the right to alter the Convention negotiated by their own Agent, M. Stourdza, at Berlin, and agreed to between the two Governments of Germany and Roumania, Prince Bismarck has forbidden the subject to be even alluded to before him, verbally or in writing, until he has recovered from the severe bilious attack he is suffering from at Varzin.

Finding himself thereby deprived of his Chancellor's advice, the Emperor, who is personally interested in Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, and desires an amicable settlement of the difficulty, has taken upon himself to write privately to Prince Charles and urge His Royal Highness to exert what influence he may still possess on his Ministers and his Parliament to bring about the desired solution.

The Crown Prince, who shares the Emperor's feelings in regard to the Prince of Roumania, is said to have taken a similar step.

Both the Emperor and the Crown Prince are apprehensive that a prolongation of the present situation may prove injurious to Prince Charles' position in Roumania.

With the Emperor's leave, the Crown Prince sent a secret and personal message through Dr. Friedberg to MM. Hausemann and Bleichröder to the effect that His Majesty could not but feel painfully surprised that two such loyal bankers should create rather than smooth down difficulties in a matter they well knew His Majesty desired to see speedily settled.

MM. Hausemann and Bleichröder replied privately through the Minister of Justice, who enjoys the personal favour of the Crown Prince, that they humbly begged to submit that the task of saving the Strousberg Roumanian Railway Concession from bankruptcy had been imposed upon them ten years ago by His Majesty; that they had reluctantly undertaken it at great personal risk to meet His Majesty's wishes, because between 300,000,000 and 400,000,000 marks of German capital were invested in it; that although they had suffered much annoyance and loss of time, they did not claim any advantage for themselves, but that they could not, on the other hand, be expected to incur besides very serious pecuniary losses by it, and that they consequently could not consent to the alterations proposed by the Roumanian Government in the Convention agreed to at Berlin, which would expose them and their families to personal liabilities amounting to 71,000,000 marks.

The Minister of Justice confirmed the statement of the two bankers by explaining that, according to Prussian law, if the first general meeting of the shareholders before the ratification of the Convention proceeded by a vote of the majority to transfer the seat of the Company from Berlin to Bucharest, M. Hausemann, the Chairman, and M. Bleichröder, the Vice-Chairman, would become, under certain future contingencies, personally liable for the sums above mentioned, whilst that liability would not be incurred by them if the resolution to transfer the seat of the Company was passed by a general meeting of the shareholders subsequent to the ratification of the Berlin Railway Convention by the Roumanian Government.

This explanation appears to have satisfied the Emperor and the Crown Prince that the two Berlin bankers were justified in resisting the amendments to the Berlin Convention proposed by the Roumanian Chambers.

I have asked Herr von Bleichröder whether he thought the majority of the shareholders would object to the transfer of the seat and administration of the Company from Berlin to Bucharest.

Herr von Bleichröder replied that it was because he and his partner, Herr von Hausemann, knew that the transfer would be voted, that they objected to the question being put in the first general assembly, as proposed by the Roumanian Chambers, instead of in the second general assembly after the ratification of the Convention as agreed to at Berlin between themselves and M. Stourdza.

Both he and his partner anxiously desired to be rid of the whole concern, and to have nothing further to do with it, once it is in Roumanian hands, but so long as they are responsible they feel it to be their duty to the Emperor, who commanded them ten years ago to save the Roumanian Railway Company, and to the German shareholders, whose interests they have at heart, to insist on efficient guarantees for the future protection of German capital, and, as far as they are personally concerned, to escape from liabilities which would ruin them and their families.

Your Lordship will perceive from the above that while the Emperor and Crown Prince desire a settlement of the question in the interest of Prince Charles, and MM. Hausemann and Bleichröder in the interest of the Railway Company, Prince Bismarck keeps in the background and reserves his opinion until the Roumanians have made up their minds either to accept or reject the Berlin Convention.

I have on several occasions submitted my impression to your Lordship that Prince Bismarck has some ulterior object in his mind, which renders the prospect of a diplomatic rupture with Roumania not unwelcome to him. Besides a deep-rooted aversion to the Roumanians, he considers that the Prussian Prince he placed on the Throne of Roumania has been a failure, and that the pro-Russian policy the Prince pursued during the late war was a serious blunder.

The interest the German Emperor and Crown Prince entertain for their kinsman he declares to be misplaced, and the connection between the House of Hohenzollern and the Principality of Roumania, of German dynastic interests with Eastern complications, is growing distasteful and inconvenient to him. I am therefore inclined to think that he would not be sorry if coming events compelled Prince Charles of Hohenzollern to abdicate in favour of some native Hospodar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 307.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 633.)
Berlin, December 26, 1879.

My Lord,

THE German Government intend to support M. Waddington's latest proposal respecting the ratification of the Greek frontier under Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 308.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 1256.)
Paris, December 27, 1879.

My Lord,

BY your despatch No. 1516 of the 19th instant your Lordship has been so good as to communicate to me the proposals of the French Government with regard to the Turco-Greek frontier, which were submitted to you on that day by order of M. Waddington.

The "République Française" of this morning contains an article declaring it to be impossible that proposals excluding Janina from Greece can have been made by the French Government.

As the "République Française" is the organ of M. Gambetta, and of the "Union Républicaine" party, which seems likely to have great influence in the Cabinet about to be formed, I deem it to be worth while to direct your Lordship's attention to the article in question, and to send you the inclosed copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Extract from the "République Française" of December 28, 1879.

ON a annoncé dans divers journaux étrangers que le Gouvernement Français, modifiant l'attitude dont il ne s'est jamais départi dans la question des frontières Grecques, aurait proposé aux Puissances de recommander à l'acceptation de la Sublime Porte une ligne de frontière en Thessalie et en Epire qui laisserait à la Turquie le district de Janina, c'est-à-dire une transaction qui donnerait gain de cause à la Turquie sur le point le plus essentiel du différend Gréco-Turc. Nous voulons croire que personne en Europe n'aura accordé le moindre crédit à une nouvelle aussi invraisemblable.

Le Gouvernement Français a pris dans toute cette affaire une attitude parfaitement correcte et logique: quel que soit le résultat des négociations de Constantinople et de l'intervention devenue inévitable des Puissances auprès de la Porte, il n'appartient pas à la France, qui, de concert avec l'Italie, désigna au Congrès de Berlin le tracé des frontières que les Délégués des Puissances approuvèrent, de prendre l'initiative d'une véritable spoliation au détriment de la Grèce. Le Gouvernement Français n'a garde de se mettre en contradiction avec lui-même, ni dans la question Grecque, ni dans aucune des conséquences qui découlent du Traité de Berlin. Il y songe d'autant moins que les Cabinets Européens, sans être encore intervenus solennellement auprès du Sultan pour que justice soit faite à la Grèce, ont clairement manifesté leur sentiment sur ce point. Des difficultés, des hésitations se sont produites de certains côtés; les unes et les autres ont cessé depuis longtemps. L'Angleterre, revenant à une appréciation équitable des choses, s'est souvenue qu'au cours de la guerre d'Orient elle avait conjuré une agression de la part de la Grèce par des promesses qu'elle ne pouvait se dispenser de remplir. L'Italie n'a pas oublié que ce fut de concert avec ces Plénipotentiaires que les Délégués Français soumirent à l'approbation du Congrès un règlement de la question Grecque. On peut donc considérer l'étrange nouvelle dont nous parlons non-seulement comme invraisemblable, mais comme fausse et à présent et dans l'avenir.

No. 309.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, December* 29, 1879.

DIRECTOR of Finance will resign in a few days. He says he cannot longer incur moral responsibility of serving under a weak and incapable Governor-General, and as a member of a Government which persistently violates principle, spirit, and letter of the Treaty of Berlin and Organic Statute.

No. 310.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, December* 29, 1879.

COMMISSION appointed to examine claims of Mussulmans have recently decided to accept no title-deeds unaccompanied by certificates from Bulgarian Mayor of each village surrounding the property. As many farms are surrounded by from fifteen to twenty villages, and Mayors refuse certificates without heavy bribe, interminable delays and great expense will be entailed on unfortunate Mussulmans, who are already nearly ruined.

Eight years ago all title-deeds were verified and accepted by a Commission named by the Porte, on which Bulgarian Mayors were represented.

Present decision is evidently adopted with a view to force Mussulmans to leave country in despair, without even receiving the value of their property.

If I fail in obtaining the rescinding of this Decree unofficially, does your Lordship authorize me to protest officially?

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 311.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

HAVE you any knowledge of large orders having been recently given to Krupp by Greek Government for mountain guns?

No. 312.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 803.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, December* 29, 1879, 7 P.M.

JUST before time of meeting of Turkish and Greek Commissioners to-day, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs sent to tell Greek Commissioner that the Sultan, not having issued his Iradé authorizing the meeting, it could not be held until this order was received, and begging them to wait.

Greek Commissioners asked for an explanation in writing, which was refused; they now intend to wait until to-morrow evening, when, if they do not receive a satisfactory communication, they will say, after this breach of faith, they cannot continue negotiations.

No. 313.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 804.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, December* 29, 1879, 8·30 P.M.

MR. CHARLES ST. JOHN wishes to know whether he is to keep up the establishment at Prisrend.

No. 314.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 29, 1879, 6·20 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Government are informed from Constantinople that Moukhtar Pasha is instructed to concert with Prince in fixing some place in which he is to hand over the final act of cession, and he is also ordered to issue a proclamation to the inhabitants of Gussinjé notifying that they had become Montenegrins.

Austrian Government will be satisfied with this if it is carried out, but they are less well pleased with an abstract, sent by their Chargé d'Affaires in Montenegro, of a communication from the Prince, said to be couched in very intemperate terms. He accuses the Powers of having prevented him from taking possession of Gussinjé, and, as the delay had cost him 2,000,000 fr., he requires repayment of this sum from the Porte, declaring that, if he does not receive it, he will indemnify himself by confiscating the property of Mussulmans in ceded districts.

No. 315.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 209. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 29, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

THE answer received from the Austrian Agent in Bulgaria about returning Mussulman refugees is not satisfactory.

He believes the Prince to be quite well-disposed towards them, but he is powerless in the matter—firstly, on account of want of funds; and, secondly, because of the hatred of the Bulgarians for the Mahommedans, which, he is convinced, must lead whole of the Turkish population to abandon their country.

No. 316.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 29, 1879, 6·40 P.M.

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires has inquired verbally whether Austrian Government would be prepared to join in mediation on the Greek frontier question.

Austrians have replied that they will be ready to do so, but no precise indication has been made to them of the line proposed by France, though they understand it to have been communicated to the Italian Government.

They will, I think, generally follow French views without taking any leading part in the mediation.

No. 317.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 29, 1879, 9·40 P.M.

I HAVE reason to believe that no Ambassador will be immediately appointed as Count Zichy's successor, but that Minister *ad interim* [?] will be sent to Constantinople pending final arrangement.

No. 318.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1879, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of 29th, you may protest officially if Decree is not rescinded.

No. 319.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 163.)
Foreign Office, December 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE this day informed you by telegraph that, in the event of your failing to obtain, by unofficial representations, the revocation of the Decree recently passed by the Commission appointed to examine the claims of Mussulmans in Bulgaria, as reported in your telegram of yesterday's date, you are authorized to protest officially against its adoption.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 320.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 165. Political.)
Scutari, December 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that nearly all the volunteers who had gone from this to assist in the defence of Gussinjé have within the last few days returned to Scutari, and that it is said they have been driven away by Ali Pasha, as he perceived they had no real intention of fighting against the Montenegrins, and were a constant source of trouble to him through their disorderly and turbulent conduct.

The volunteers themselves say that, their funds having been exhausted, they obtained leave from Ali Pasha to come away; whilst I believe that they became alarmed at the possible consequences of the attack of the Montenegrins at Velika and at the reported approach of Moukhtar Pasha, and have exercised a prudence for which most of them have been conspicuous whenever actual fighting has been imminent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 321.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 214.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 31, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that his Turkish colleague has informed Porte that Russia suggests the exchange of Gussinjé against territory in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

He is instructed to inform Russian Government that his Government cannot believe this to be correct, as Russia had supported Austria in urging upon Porte the immediate cession of Gussinjé, and the suggestion of exchange could only lead to delay; they therefore hope that the Russian Government will continue to impress upon the Porte the necessity of a strict fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin.

Russian Government are believed here to be instigating the Porte to press for this exchange, in the hope of making the eastern frontier of Montenegro follow the line of the Treaty of San Stefano, which was objected to by Count Andrassy because it ran too near Servia, and his successor is quite as determined to resist it.

No. 322.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, December* 30, 1879.

I HAVE received a note from the Montenegrin Government dated 26th, accompanying a memorandum on the Gussinjé question. Note states that this matter has assumed so serious an aspect that it can only now be smoothed away through efficacious intervention of the Signataries of Treaty of Berlin, and ends with these words: "We await the resolutions which the Signatory Powers of Treaty of Berlin may deign to take in this

grave circumstance with impatience, but also with confidence in their sense of equity and justice." The memorandum is a long statement of all that has already occurred with reference to delivery of Gussinjé, and terminates with the declaration that while awaiting execution of Treaty the Montenegrin Government finds itself obliged to secure future by sequestrating all the property in the recently annexed districts belonging to Mussulmans who have withdrawn to Turkey. This sequestration will hold good until payment by the Porte of damages arising from present state of affairs, computed already at 2,000,000 piastres. The memorandum admits the act to be infringement of Treaty, but places it as a set-off against Porte's delays and responsibilities about Gussinjé.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 323.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December* 30, 1879, 5 P.M.

REFERENCE to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

I am informed that large orders for guns, mountain and others, are being executed by Krupp for Greek Government.

No. 324.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1879, 3 P.M.

IN reply to Mr. Ashburnham's telegram repeated in my No. 205, I have instructed him to protest officially if the decree is not rescinded. Communicate substance of his telegram and my reply to Austrian Government.

No. 325.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 126.)
Foreign Office, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 298 of the 10th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople;* and, in compliance with the wish expressed by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have to instruct you to urge the Servian Government to appoint, without further delay, their Delegates on the joint Commission which should be appointed to investigate the claims of the Mussulman subjects of the Porte who wish to recover the value of the property formerly held by them in Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 326.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1542.)
Foreign Office, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 1104 of the 13th instant, and to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the remarks made by you to M. Zancoff in your conversation with him regarding affairs in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 266.

No. 327.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1543.)

Foreign Office, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1111 of the 16th instant, inclosing Mr. Consul Calvert's account of the reforms which Réouf Pasha is endeavouring to introduce into the Vilayet of Adrianople, I have to convey to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the support you are giving to his efforts for the advancement of that province.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 328.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1545.)

Foreign Office, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1119 of the 17th instant, I transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade instructing him to urge the Servian Government to appoint their Delegates for the investigation of the claims of the Mussulman subjects of the Porte who formerly held property in Servia, and now wish to recover its value.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 329.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 818.)

Foreign Office, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE sent to-day to your Excellency, by telegraph, copies of telegraphic correspondence with Mr. Ashburnham respecting the difficulties to which Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria are exposed in attempting to press their titles, and have requested you to communicate it to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 330.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 75.)

Foreign Office, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 403, 404, Confidential, and 405, of the 13th instant, and, in reply, I have to convey to you my approval of your endeavours to devise means for the relief of the Turkish refugees who have returned to the Province of Eastern Roumelia in a state of destitution.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 325.